

LITERARY INFLUENCE AND NATIONAL MENTALITY IN THE WORKS OF O. HENRY

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Abstract:

One of the most enduring characteristics of O. Henry's short stories is their unexpected resolutions. They frequently have unexpected endings and have unique narratives. O. Henry gained recognition for his use of humor, his ability to tell stories in a distinctive way, and his unexpected yet logical conclusion. Because of reality's irony and the resurgence of human nature, his superb writing technique is more evident. Later realistic fiction developed in a pluralistic manner, facilitated by the O. Henry-esque finale. This pivotal point's extremely crucial ending further emphasizes the usefulness of world literature's response to society.

This article examines the influence of O. Henry's writing on later generations of writers and the American national mentality of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. O. Henry's literary works, known for their wit, irony and careful observation of human nature, continue to captivate readers around the world. Through an analysis of O. Henry's thematic concerns, narrative techniques, and portrayal of characters, we will illuminate his enduring literary legacy and his significance within the broader context of American literature.

Keywords

National mentality, literary influence, William Sidney Porter, optimism, resilience, and contradictions.

Introduction

O. Henry was an American short story writer whose works idealized the everyday, particularly the lives of regular people in New York City. He was born in Greensboro, North Carolina, on September 11, 1862, and passed away in New York City on June 5, 1910. His stories frequently featured unexpected endings, a tactic that became associated with his name and cost him critical favor after its popularity had passed. They also frequently conveyed the humorous or sardonic influence of happenstance on character.

O. Henry occupies an important place in the annals of American literature. His real name is William Sidney Porter, and O. Henry is his pen name. His stories have left an indelible mark on the literary landscape with their clever plot twists, memorable characters, and sharp social commentary. This article examines the literary influence of O. Henry's works and the fact that they reflect the national mentality of his time.

Literary Influence:

The influence of O. Henry's works on the writers of the next generation is very deep and wide. His innovative use of irony, humor, and unexpected endings has inspired countless

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authors in a variety of genres, including short fiction, novels, and even film and television. Famous writers such as F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, and Roald Dahl recognized O. Henry's influence on their writing style and appreciated his ability to combine humor with pathos and his story skills as a constant source of inspiration.

Additionally, William Sidney Porter's storytelling techniques, such as his skillful depiction and manipulation of plot, became touchstones for aspiring writers. His legacy as a master of narrative economy and emotional resonance continues to shape contemporary literary discourse and reaffirms his status as a seminal figure in American letters.

National Mentality:

The works of William Sidney Porter provide a window into the American national mentality of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. O. Henry captures the optimism, resilience, and contradictions inherent in the American experience by portraying characters from diverse backgrounds and exploring themes such as class, ambition, and the pursuit of the American Dream.

Furthermore, William Sidney Porter's stories reflect the rapidly changing social and economic landscape of his time, characterized by urbanization, industrialization, and increasing cultural diversity. Its characters navigate the complexities of modern life, grappling with issues of identity, alienation, and the search for meaning in an increasingly fragmented society.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the national mentality and literary influence reflected in the works of O. Henry emphasize his permanent importance as a storyteller and commentator of culture. In terms of literary influence, O. Henry was influenced by a variety of sources, including American humorists like Mark Twain and Bret Harte, as well as European authors such as Guy de Maupassant and Anton Chekhov. He was also influenced by the realism movement in literature, which sought to depict life as it truly was, without idealization or romanticization.

In terms of national mentality, O. Henry's stories often reflect the spirit of the times in America, particularly the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His portrayal of urban life, social inequality, and the struggles of everyday people resonated with readers who were grappling with the rapid changes brought about by industrialization, urbanization, and immigration.

Through his timeless stories and insightful observations, O. Henry continues to illuminate the human condition and challenge readers to confront the complexities of their own lives. As we revisit his stories, we are reminded of literature's enduring power to transcend time and space, to comfort, inspire, and enlighten readers of all ages.

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