

THE POETICS OF CUBORG CHARACTER IN THE NOVELS OF MARGE PIERCY

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the poetic features of cyborg characters in Marge Piercy's novels. In postmodern literature, the question of how technology, the relationship between man and society are reflected in artistic form is considered. Especially in the works *He, She and It*, and *Woman on the Edge of Time*, the combination of cyborg characters with feminist, utopian, and dystopian views is revealed. Donna Haraway's work "A Cyborg Manifesto" is used as a theoretical basis, and the metaphorical and poetic functions of the cyborg image are analyzed. As a result of the research, it is determined that cyborg images are an important literary tool in the artistic interpretation of human identity, gender equality, and attitudes towards the technological society.

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At the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st century, technology, the relationship between man and society became an increasingly relevant topic in literature. Marge Piercy's work, particularly the novels *He, She and It*, and *Woman on the Edge of Time*, is notable for its poetic portrayal of the complex connections between technology and humanity. In her works, cyborg images are formed not only as a fantastic element, but also as an artistic-metaphorical symbol embodying feminist views, utopian dreams, and dystopian warnings.

The theoretical foundations of the concept of cyborg were first developed in Donna Haraway's famous work "A Cyborg Manifesto," in which the cyborg is interpreted as a conceptual image that breaks the boundaries between man, machine, and animal, discovering new forms of identity. In Haraway's theory, cyborg is a symbol that reinforces feminist and postcolonial views, while in Piercy's novels, this concept acquires a new

poetic image through artistic language, metaphor, and plot.

Marge Piercy's novel *He, She and It*, published in 1991, is considered one of the most striking examples of postmodern fantasy literature. In the work, the image of Yodiyot, that is, the cyborg, occupies a central place and expresses the complex relationship between man and technology at a poetic level.

Created in the novel by Piercy, Yodiyot is depicted not as a simple technological device, but as a being controlled by society, but approaching humanity with his personality and emotions. Through this image, the writer reveals the political and social role of technology in society. A cyborg is both a weapon protecting society and a potential rebel against the forces governing that society.

The main poetic task of memory is to redefine the boundaries of humanity. Although it was created as a machine, it has the ability to feel human emotions, understand love and loyalty. At the same time, its limitations as a machine and its control by society create an internal conflict between human freedom and technological existence.

Through the plot of the novel, Piercy shows that the penetration of technology into human life poses issues not only of control and dominance, but also of love and freedom. The relationship between memory and human characters reveals the connection between technology and humanity at a more complex, emotional, and moral level. Piercy's 1976 novel *Woman on the Edge of Time* is a work that embodies elements of feminist utopia and dystopia, in which technological change and the cyborg concept are linked to the future of society.

In feminist literature, cyborg characters are often interpreted as a means of breaking gender boundaries and opposing patriarchal society. In Donna Haraway's famous *A Cyborg Manifesto* (1991), the cyborg is described as a hybrid creature that breaks the boundaries between humans, machines, and animals. It destroys traditional dualisms such as "woman/man" or "nature/culture," thereby creating new forms of identity. Haraway's views serve as an important theoretical basis for the analysis of Marge Piercy's novels, as the writer transforms technology not only into a science fiction element, but also into an artistic metaphor for issues such as gender equality, freedom, and control. In postmodern literature, the interaction of technology and man has become an increasingly important topic. Fredric Jameson defines technology as the "cultural logic" of the postmodern era, showing it as a new way of understanding human life. From this point of view, the images of cyborgs in Piercy's works can be considered as an artistic device used to express the political, social, and cultural problems of modern society.

The novel depicts how a future society can become more free and equal with the help of technology. Technology is presented as a means of serving freedom, not enslavement. At the same time, technological achievements allow for the preservation of humanity's harmony with nature. In the work, the life and struggles of the main character Connie Ramos are directly connected with technology and gender issues. The technology of the utopian future serves to eliminate the gender boundaries of man, which is in harmony with the concept of the "cyborg" described by Haraway. Through the character of Connie,

Piercy poetically expresses the issue of a woman's social and technological freedom.

In both novels, Piercy uses the concept of cyborg not simply as a science fiction element, but as a metaphorical and poetic symbol. The images of Cyborg serve as a literary tool that reveals the contradictions between power relations in society, gender equality, control, and freedom. These images possess poetic depth both at the level of language and at the level of plot and metaphor, prompting the reader to philosophize about the future of humanity.

In Marge Piercy's novels, cyborg characters play a central role in the reconstruction of personal identity. They serve to redefine social status by eliminating gender and gender boundaries. For example, in the novel *Woman on the Edge of Time*, technological achievements are described as a means of strengthening gender equality. According to Haraway's theory, the cyborg is an image that breaks down the traditional categories of "female" and "male," allowing for the creation of new forms of identity. Piercy also brings this concept to artistic form through poetic language and the characters' life experiences. The images of Cyborg represent a complex dialectic of freedom and control. Yodiyot in the novel *"He, She and It"* is simultaneously a symbol of freedom, protecting society, and a weapon controlled by the ruling regime. This paradox shows that the penetration of technology into human life, while expanding freedom, can also strengthen control. In Piercy's poetics, these two poles encourage the reader to reflect on the positive and negative consequences of a technological society.

In Piercy's novels, cyborg characters mediate between utopian dreams and dystopian warnings. In *"Woman on the Edge of Time,"* technology opens up opportunities for equality and freedom in a utopian future, while in *"He, She, and It,"* dystopian dangers are shown - the use of technology as a tool of dominance. Thus, cyborg images become a poetic symbol representing the boundary between utopia and dystopia.

In Piercy's works, the dialectic of "human - machine" is expressed at the level of metaphors, artistic language, and plot. Yodiot's striving to understand human emotions, Connie Ramos's struggles in a technological society, illuminate in poetic form the tension between two poles at the level of language - humanity and technological existence. Through this, Piercy presents cyborg characters not only as a fantastic element but also as deeply philosophical and aesthetic symbols.

For today, the significance of these images is growing even more. Because debates about the future of humanity, issues of achieving gender equality, and the social consequences of a technological society are still relevant today. The novels of Piercy encourage the reader to think deeply about these issues not only through fantastic plots, but also through poetic and philosophical interpretations.

In conclusion, in the novels of Marge Piercy, the images of cyborgs appear not only as technological beings, but also as social and cultural metaphors. They serve as a means of artistically illuminating such fundamental issues as identity, gender equality, freedom, and control. The feminist and utopian dimensions of Cyborg's poetics are one of the most important features of Piercy's work. The writer describes technology not only as a source

of risk and control, but also as a force that opens up opportunities for freedom and equality.

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