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**EPISTOLYAR SATRLAR: SOL BELLOUNING "GERTSOG" ROMANIDA XATLARNING O'ZGARTIRUVCHI KUCHI****ЭПИСТОЛЯРНЫЕ СТРОКИ: ПРЕОБРАЗУЮЩАЯ СИЛА ПИСЕМ В РОМАНЕ СОЛА БЕЛЛОУ "ГЕРЦОГ"****EPISTOLARY LINES: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF LETTERS IN SAUL BELLOW'S NOVEL «HERZOG»****Umarova Xurshidaxon Zikiryoixonovna<sup>1</sup>**<sup>1</sup>Farg'ona davlat universiteti tayanch doktoranti**Annotatsiya**

*Saul Bellowing "Gertsog" romani asar qahramoni Moses Gertsog yozgan maktublarining o'zgartiruvchi kuchidan dalolat beradi. Xususan, qahramon xarakteri o'zi yozgan xatlar yordamida o'zgarib boradi. Roman hikoyasida bosh qahramonning turli shaxslarga yozgan va junatmagan maktublari salmoqli o'rin egallaydi. Bu yozishmalar qahramonga nafaqat uning ko'p muammolari bilan kurashish vositasi, balki unga hayotining inqirozli damlarida yordam beradigan hayot chizig'iga aylanadi.*

**Аннотация**

*Роман Сола Беллоу "Герцог" свидетельствует о преобразующей силе писем, написанных героем произведения, Мозесом Герцогом. В частности, характер героя меняется с помощью писем, которые он пишет. Значительное место в повествовании романа занимают письма главного героя к различным личностям. Эта переписка становится для героя не только средством борьбы со многими его проблемами, но и спасательным кругом, помогающим ему в кризисные моменты его жизни.*

**Abstract**

*Saul Bellow's novel "Herzog" testifies to the transformative power of letters written by the hero of the work, Moses Herzog. In particular, the character of the hero changes with the help of letters that he writes. A significant place in the narrative of the novel is occupied by the letters of the main character to various personalities. This correspondence becomes for the hero not only a means of dealing with many of his problems, but also a lifeline that helps him in crisis moments of his life.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** maktub, katarsis, terapevtik funksiya, hissiy izolyatsiya, shaxsiyat va jamiyat.

**Ключевые слова:** письмо, катарсис, терапевтическая функция, эмоциональная изоляция, личность и общество.

**Key words:** writing, catharsis, therapeutic function, emotional isolation, personality and society.

**INTRODUCTION**

Letter-writing plays a significant and multifaceted role in novels, contributing to the narrative in various ways. The importance of letter-writing in novels extends beyond being a mere plot device; it serves as a rich literary tool that enhances storytelling and character development. Letters provide a unique window into a character's inner thoughts, emotions, and personal conflicts. Through the act of writing, characters reveal aspects of their personalities, allowing readers to understand their motivations, desires, and struggles on a deeper level. Letters also create an intimate connection between characters and readers. The direct and personal nature of letters fosters a sense of authenticity, as characters express themselves without the filter of a third-person narrator. This authenticity enhances the reader's emotional engagement with the story. Letters can serve as a vehicle for advancing the plot. Characters may convey critical information, share secrets, or reveal key events through their correspondence. The exchange of letters can introduce new elements that drive the narrative forward. Novels that adopt an epistolary structure, where the narrative unfolds through letters, provide a distinct and engaging storytelling format. This approach allows for multiple perspectives, creating a mosaic of voices that contribute to a richer narrative tapestry. Letters often play a role in resolving conflicts or exacerbating tensions within the story. Miscommunications, revelations, and emotional confrontations conveyed through letters can heighten the dramatic elements of the plot. Characters may use letters as a tool for reflection and contemplation. The act of putting thoughts on paper can serve as a form of self-discovery, allowing characters to make sense of their experiences and personal growth. The recurring motif of letter-writing can carry symbolic weight

in a novel. It may represent a character's desire for connection, a search for understanding, or a means of leaving a legacy. The motif can contribute to the novel's thematic depth.

### **METHODS**

At the heart of "Herzog" lies the therapeutic function of letter-writing. Herzog, facing personal and existential crises, turns to the written word as a form of catharsis. The word "catharsis" was used by Aristotle in his definition of tragedy in Chapter VI of Poetics, and, in a sense, the tragedy, having aroused powerful feelings in the spectator, has also a therapeutic effect; after the storm and climax there comes a sense of release from tension, of calm. [1,115] In the novel the letters have this therapeutic effect and play the role of catharsis. The act of expressing his innermost thoughts and emotions on paper becomes a therapeutic process, allowing him to confront and make sense of the challenges he faces. [2,129-144] Through his letters, Herzog engages in a dialogue with himself, reflecting on the complexities of his relationships, the dissolution of his marriage, and his grappling with profound philosophical questions. The act of putting his thoughts on paper provides a therapeutic outlet for the anger, confusion, and despair he experiences in the aftermath of his failed marriage and other personal challenges. The act of articulating these concerns provides Herzog with a sense of order in the midst of chaos, offering him a way to organize his thoughts and gain perspective.

### **RESULTS**

Interestingly, Herzog's letters also serve as a means of connection with others, despite the physical and emotional isolation he experiences. Through his written words, Herzog reaches out to friends, family, and historical figures, establishing a network of communication that transcends the boundaries of time and space. In one of his letters to his ex-wife, for example, Herzog attempts to bridge the emotional distance that has grown between them. The act of writing becomes a bridge, enabling Herzog to express his feelings and attempt a reconciliation that is challenging in face-to-face interactions.

Herzog's letters extend beyond his immediate circle, reaching out to historical figures such as Nietzsche and Eisenhower. These epistles serve as a form of intellectual exploration, allowing Herzog to engage with the ideas and philosophies of these figures. The act of addressing letters to historical luminaries becomes a way for Herzog to grapple with his own existential questions and find solace in the wisdom of the past. [3,130-134] In essence, Herzog's letters to historical figures serve as a multifaceted tool in the novel, allowing him to engage intellectually, seek guidance, reflect philosophically, express himself, cope with isolation, and contribute to the novel's narrative structure. The act of writing to historical figures becomes an integral part of Herzog's journey toward self-discovery and understanding.

As Herzog continues to pour his thoughts onto paper, the transformative power of expression becomes evident. His letters document not only his struggles but also his evolution as an individual. The act of writing becomes a journey of self-discovery, and through the articulation of his experiences, Herzog begins to find a semblance of peace and understanding. The act of writing letters becomes a dynamic mechanism for Herzog's transformation. It serves as a tool for self-discovery, emotional healing, intellectual exploration, and reconciliation with the past. Through the course of the novel, the evolution of Herzog's character is intricately intertwined with the letters he writes, creating a narrative that is both introspective and deeply engaging.

### **DISCUSSION**

As Herzog reflects on his experiences and relationships in his letters, he undergoes a process of personal growth and acceptance. He comes to terms with his own flaws, acknowledges the imperfections of others, and develops a more mature and nuanced perspective on life. The letters also contribute to the novel's narrative structure. Through Herzog's correspondence, readers gain intimate access to his inner world, allowing them to witness the nuances of his transformation firsthand. Bellow uses the epistolary format to weave a rich tapestry of Herzog's thoughts and experiences. The process of composing letters serves as a dynamic catalyst in Herzog's metamorphosis. It functions as a means for self-exploration, emotional recovery, intellectual investigation, and coming to terms with his history. Throughout the novel, Herzog's personal development intricately weaves with the letters he pens, constructing a narrative that is introspective and profoundly captivating.

### **CONCLUSION**

In Saul Bellow's "Herzog," letters emerge as powerful instruments of survival and transformation for the protagonist. Through the written word, Herzog navigates the tumultuous

landscape of his life, finding solace, catharsis, and a renewed sense of self. He confronts suppressed desires, grapples with existential questions, and excavates memories, all fueled by the intimacy and honesty fostered by the epistolary form. The novel stands as a poignant exploration of the human condition and the redemptive power of communication, proving that sometimes, the simple act of putting pen to paper can be a transformative and healing endeavor. In fact, the letters play the role of instruments of profound self-discovery for the protagonist.

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