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Features and Characteristics of English Modern Literature

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Abstract: In this article, the characteristics and uniqueness of English literature were not revealed.

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Beginning of the 17th century. The beginning of the third and final stage of the development of the English Renaissance. Whether we define the beginning of this stage with the death of Spencer (1599), the Essex rebellion (1601) or finally the death of Queen Elizabeth (1603) is irrelevant for us. Be that as it may, in the last years of Elizabeth's reign and the first years of Jacob I's reign, the new features of society's life consisted, first of all, of breaking the relative political balance that had happened before. The alliance between the bourgeoisie and the absolute monarchy has been broken, which is now an obstacle to the further development of the bourgeoisie. Along with the strengthening of the political conflict between the bourgeoisie and the monarchy, the social conflicts between the exploiters and the exploited also become more evident. However, until now, the latter did not oppose their interests to the interests of the bourgeoisie, did not understand themselves as a class, and did not support the struggle of the bourgeoisie against one of the last remnants of feudalism - the monarchy. The sharpening of class antagonisms is fully expressed in literature. The most vivid expression of this is Shakespeare's work during the time when he created great tragedies. they did not understand themselves as a class and did not support the struggle of the bourgeoisie against one of the last remnants of feudalism - the monarchy. The sharpening of class antagonisms is fully expressed in literature. The most vivid expression of this is Shakespeare's work during the time when he created great tragedies. they did not understand themselves as a class and did not support the struggle of the bourgeoisie against one of the last remnants of feudalism - the monarchy. The sharpening of class antagonisms is fully expressed in literature. The most vivid expression of this is Shakespeare's work during the time when he created great tragedies.1At the beginning of the 17th century. Under the influence of the growing socio-political reaction, Renaissance humanism enters a period of crisis, which is manifested differently in the works of individual writers. In general, the most important manifestation of the crisis is the decline of the dramatic art that developed with Shakespeare's death. The third stage of the English Renaissance is also the beginning of the bourgeois revolution that took place in England in the 1740s. 17th century In a certain sense, the entire English Renaissance was a prelude to the bourgeois revolution of the 17th century. Bourgeois elements in England were strongly developed compared to other countries, and this was reflected in the existence of real conditions for a victorious bourgeois revolution. English humanists faced not only the dying feudal society. They witnessed the establishment of the bourgeoisie in the socio-economic life. A new enemy appeared in front of the humanists - a society based on capitalist private property and exploitation. Humanists opposed not only the old feudal system, but also the social injustice of the bourgeois system. Thomas More ideal communist created a utopia about the society and contrasted it with the emerging bourgeois social relations. Shakespeare sharply criticized the bourgeoisie and the

destructive role of money in human life in "The Merchant of Venice" and especially in Timon of Athens. Observing the reactionary tendencies of the monarchy of Elizabeth and James I, losing faith in the monarchy's ability to eliminate open social contradictions and establish social justice, Shakespeare opposed absolute monarchy at the most mature stage of his career. This was the most advanced political position at the beginning of the 17th century. And in the middle of the 17th century, such a position directly fought to overthrow the monarchy, and exactly this position was taken by Milton, the successor of Renaissance humanism, poet and revolutionary. Thomas More, Shakespeare, Bacon and Milton's works and ideas determined the main direction of the development of English humanism in the 16th and 17th centuries. The intellectual richness of the Renaissance literature corresponded to its artistic diversity. The fascination with antiquity was manifested in attempts to confirm classical forms taken from Greek and Roman writers. In poetry, this trend was expressed in the work of Sidney and the Areopagus circle he created, who sought to reform versification, introduce ancient meters and non-rhyme poems. The critical expression of these classic aspirations was Sidney's "Defense of Poetry". Elements of classicism in dramaturgy were restored by university drama, which had already been studied. Ben Jonson emerged as the most consistent representative of this trend among dramatists. However, classic tastes could not prevail in literature. The main direction of the development of literature is the continuation of the traditions of the past era, enriched with humanistic culture.

From the second half of the XV century. century, Europe enters one of the most wonderful periods of its history, called the Renaissance. This was the greatest progressive upheaval ever experienced by humanity, a time in need of titans and the birth of titans of thought, passion and strength of character, versatility and learning. The people who founded the modern rule of the bourgeoisie were limited to the bourgeoisie. On the contrary, they were more or less surrounded by the adventurous nature of their time. At that time, there was almost no great person who did not travel long distances, who did not speak four or five languages, and who did not shine in several fields of creativity. This characteristic of the Renaissance belongs to England, like other European countries.

England is on the path of capitalist development during the so-called "primary society". The bourgeoisie is getting stronger and stronger in the country, capitalistic relations are being introduced in all spheres of economic life. Capitalist production is established, trade develops and expands, bringing England into relations with the most distant countries of the world. At the end of the Wars of the Red and White Roses, Henry VII, who came to the throne, began to strongly confirm the system of absolute monarchy, which was even stronger during the reign of his successor, Henry VIII. Both of these Tudor monarchs founded English absolutism; He reached the height of his power during Elizabeth's reign. The parliament that existed under the Tudors became a more or less obedient mouthpiece to the office of the autocratic monarch.²

The new nobility formed under the Tudors served as one of the pillars of the absolute monarchy. The heirs of the old feudal barons are mainly the descendants of these old families, descended from such long lateral lines that, they formed an entirely new corporation. Their skill in pursuit was more bourgeois than that of the feudal lords. They know the value of money very well, and immediately they started increasing the rent of the land, evicted hundreds of small tenants and replaced them with sheep. Henry VIII created new landowners from the mass bourgeoisie, gave away and sold church estates; The same result was achieved by continuing until the end of the 17th century, the confiscation of large estates, which were then distributed to primary or semi-primary. That's why, from the time of Henry VIII, the English "aristocracy" not only did not resist the development of industry, but, on the contrary, tried to benefit from it "(Marx-Engels, Works, Volume XVI, Part II, p.) Another pillar of English absolutism It was a growing bourgeoisie that needed a strong royal power to protect its economic interests. The Reformation produced an extensive theological literature that reflected the struggle between Catholicism and Protestantism, but only a few. his monuments were of literary importance: "The Book of Martyrs" (Book of Martyrs, 1563 d.) John Fox (1516-1587), in which the great martyrs of Christians of all ages are

told, but especially in detail about the persecutions. Protestants during the Catholic reaction under Mary Tudor. (1593), written by Richard Hooker (1554-1600), contains a summary of the main concepts. Church of the Church of England. The Reformation made the Bible public, and the Catholic Church forbade the translation of its text. In the 16th century. and the beginning of the 17th century. Based on the translation of William Tyndall (1525-1535), ten "Bible translations" appeared. All these translations were created by 47 translators and served as preparation for the final "authorized text" published in 1611. The widespread circulation of the Bible led to its language having a significant influence on everyday speech and literature. The new nobility and the bourgeoisie supported the royal power, not only because they feared the recurrence of feudal internal conflicts, which even in Shakespeare's time lived in fear. did

Humanists acted as successors of folk and national traditions of English literature. In the literature of aristocratic humanism (White, Surrey, Sidney, Spencer, etc.), the traditions of medieval court poetry were further developed. It is no coincidence that the greatest poem of the English Renaissance - Spenser's "Fairy Queen" - was a chivalrous poem. In this poetry, knightly courage and palace ideals have been preserved, but has a new humanistic understanding. Pastoral was also a new genre, an example of which is Sidney's Arcadia. On the other hand, we find a continuation of medieval urban literary traditions in the Renaissance period. These traditions are reflected in Skelton's poetry, their expression in narrative prose was the picaresque genre and Delon's unique "production" novel. Finally, a whole group of burger writers can be mentioned in dramaturgy. Dekker, Thomas Heywood and Arden of Fevershamning by an unknown author are attributed to him. Other dramatists like Milton were close to these tendencies. Even Ben Jonson, with all his classical aspirations, contributed to the development of bourgeois comedy of manners (or bourgeois comedy of manners). Drama also It had a specific pastoral reaction that came from Lily and was further developed in Ben Jonson's "masks" and the pastoral comedies of Beaumont and Fletcher. Favorite genres of folk theater were bloody tragedies, chronicle plays and Persian comedies. Shakespeare's work was the most universal in terms of its content, and at the same time the most diverse in terms of artistic features. His dramaturgy was the highest synthesis of all genre trends in the literature of this period. We are aristocrats in it His dramaturgy was the highest synthesis of all genre trends in the literature of this period. We are aristocrats in it His dramaturgy was the highest synthesis of all genre trends in the literature of this period. We are aristocrats in itwe can find pastoral and burger farce , bloody tragedy and bourgeois moral comedy, chronicle play and romantic tragicomedy, but all these genres are colored and elevated in it according to the humanitarian content. The unique features of the Renaissance period literature are titanism, universality, intellectual wealth, and concern for the fundamental interests of human life. The highest achievement of this literature is the work of Shakespeare, who created works of great realistic power and the deepest humanistic ideological content, embodying all shades of romantic realism and realistic romance. The most important feature of the great works of humanistic literature of this period is nationality. This was the result of the general national upsurge during the struggle for the political independence of England and its country. Nationalism is instilled in the works of writers who embody all-round realism , humanism and endless wealth of ideas. All these characteristics characteristic of the Renaissance found their highest representation in the works of these giants of the English Renaissance, Thomas More, Shakespeare and Bacon.

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