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### **REFLECTION OF MORAL ATTITUDES IN MIKHAIL YURIYEVICH LERMONTOV'S WORK "THE HERO OF OUR TIME"**

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#### **Abstract:**

This article psychologically analyzes the relationship of Grigory Aleksandrovich Pechorin, the main character of Mikhail Lermontov's novel "Hero of Our Time" with women, and reveals the conflicts between the concepts of "love" and "play" in Pechorin's character through the characters of Bella, Marie and Vera.

**Keywords:** Pechorin, love, game, moral attitude, female image, inner experiences.

#### **Introduction**

Mikhail Lermontov's work "Hero of Our Time" is not only a mirror of the Russian society of the 19th century, but also the first psychological novel that illuminates the darkest corners of the human psyche. The work is based on moral rules such as human relationships - friendship, love, loyalty, betrayal.



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The image of Grigory Pechorin, who stands in the center of the work, is still the cause of discussions among literary experts and readers. Especially, it is not just a romantic adventure, but his actions in the example of confirming the identity of a person and trying to escape from the meaninglessness of life can be a clear example of this. This novel also has partly autobiographical features. The first two chapters of the plot of the work are narrated by the writer. After the diaries of Pechorin, the hero of the work, fall into the hands of the author, the events are presented in Pechorin's own language. This makes it possible to describe Pechorin's inner experiences, thoughts, feelings more clearly in the work.

### **Analysis and Results**

Grigory Pechorin is an intelligent, educated, stubborn, young officer who was exiled to serve in the Caucasus. He describes his fate as follows: "...True, my fate has been like this since I was a child! Everyone used to find bad signs on my face, but in fact I did not have such signs on my face, but after people kept saying that I had them, they appeared. I was very modest, they accused me of being a hypocrite, and then I became pessimistic..." [1; page 157].

Pechorin was not born evil by nature. His confession in the conversation with Mary confirms this: "I was ready to love the whole world, but no one understood me. After that, I learned to hate everything" [1; page 157]. These words show that the hero has become a careless person under the influence of the external environment. The features, portraits, and inner feelings of each character in the work are very well described. Especially the image of the eyes is sure to appeal to every reader. "First of all, when he laughed, his eyes did not laugh" [1; page 71]. From this we can learn what Pechorin is really like. He tries to pretend to be happy, but his eyes reveal that he is not. Nature, in particular, mountains, sky,



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dawn, and clouds are described using unique similes. This brought this novel partially closer to poetry.

Grigory Aleksandrovich Pechorin, the main character of the novel “The Hero of Our Time”, is described as a proud, determined, self-made, intelligent, entrepreneurial, fearless, sometimes incompetent person. He worked hard until he got what he wanted and enjoyed the struggle to get there. After reaching his goal, he lost the meaning of his life and quickly got bored of it. As he said, his greatest source of pleasure was subjugating others to his will. Once he had achieved that, he would look for something else to enjoy.

In the play, Pechorin’s series about women begins with the chapter called “Bella”. In this relationship, Pechorin is not just a lover, but a character who will stop at nothing to achieve what he wants, and is ready to make any sacrifice to get what he is interested in. At a wedding, he sees a girl named Bella, who is as black as a deer’s eyes, tall, and comes from Khipcha, and he uses his brother to catch up with her. As we read the play, we can see that Pechorin steals Bella not because he loves her, but because he wants to have her. Tragically, once he achieves his goal, he loses interest in Bella. When Bella falls in love with him, Pechorin starts to get bored of her. Maksim Maksimovich, who has become his friend, does not listen to him even if he gives him a lot of advice. Kazbich, who was in love with Bella, was saddened by the loss of his beloved daughter and his own horse, so he wanted to take revenge on Pechorin and kidnapped Bella. But knowing that he could not achieve his goal, he stabbed him in the shoulder. After this incident, Bella could not recover. While he is fighting with death, Pechorin’s reaction to this event is sure to surprise the reader.

The next character of Pechorin is Princess Mary. While his relationship with Bella is driven by his interest in her, his relationship with Mary is a state of spiritual superiority. Love is not a goal, but the main goal of Pechorin is to rule over others



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and make his life even a little more colorful. Pechorin does not love Mary, but pretending to love her, he actually wants to take revenge on Junker Grushnitsky. At first, they played a bet over Mary, which eventually turned them into enemies. Pechorin gets the girl attached to him step by step, firstly, he behaves recklessly and carelessly, and then he behaves like a “confidante” to her. As he talks about his fate, he tries to arouse Mary’s compassion in order to warm her feelings for him. The end of the relationship surprises the reader with its tragedy. Pechorin wins the duel with Grushnitsky, he coldly rejects her, convinced that he has made her fall in love with him. He destroys Mary’s heart with the words “I do not love you”.

As we can see in the play, Pechorin is used to winning in relationships with women. However, when it comes to the character of Vera, we can observe a weak, needy Pechorin. Vera is the only woman Pechorin loves with all his selfishness and at the same time with his “mental disability”. Although Vera understands him, Pechorin cannot put on his mask in front of her. When they meet, Pechorin asks about her family, but Vera is very distressed by this. To Vera Pechorin: “...Since the day we met, you have given me nothing but pain...” [1; page 129] and lays his head on her chest. Pechorin: “Maybe that is why you loved me, because joy is forgotten when it is forgotten, sadness is never forgotten...” [1; page 129] we can see that he is in love with Vera from the bottom of his heart. Pechorin does not like strong-willed women, because being strong-willed is not a woman’s job, he says. But he admits that he once fell in love with a strong-willed woman and could not win her over. Maybe that is why he loved Vera? At the end of the play, when Vera left these places, a horse galloped after her, but she got stuck halfway, and she was very upset about it. Knowing that it is useless to chase after the lost bird of happiness, he accepts his fate.



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Analyzing Grigory Pechorin's relationship with women in M. Lermontov's novel "The Hero of Our Time", we come across the fact that love for Pechorin is a fruitless attempt to find his identity. He wanted to feel loved more by others, even by a few people. Sometimes he even dreamed that he would be loved by only one person and would never be unfaithful. But he did not appreciate those who loved him.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, it can be said that Mikhail Lermontov, through the character of Pechorin, skillfully showed how the disconnection between society and personal morality makes a person lonely. Pechorin sacrificed love as a hero of his time. "If everyone loved me, I would have found inexhaustible sources of love in myself" [1; page 153]. Because of this, he was condemned to eternal loneliness and wandering.

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