



# **LEXICAL-SEMANTIC STUDY OF THE CONCEPT OF HUMANITY IN CHARLES DICKENS' "A TALE OF TWO CITIES"**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*In this scientific thesis, the concept of "humanity" in Charles Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities" was studied on the basis of lexical-semantic analysis. The purpose of the study is to identify linguistic units expressing the idea of humanity in the work and analyze their semantic properties. Dickens expresses humanity in this work through the ideas of love, selflessness, compassion and self-sacrifice. The results of the analysis show that the author, through his lexical choice, promoted human values against inhumanity, violence and social oppression and gave a universal lesson for humanity. Thus, Dickens deeply revealed the universal meaning of humanity through his artistic language and style.*

## **Introduction**

Literature is one of the most powerful tools for expressing human thought, values, and moral principles. Concepts such as humanity, compassion, justice, and selflessness exist as common humanistic values, regardless of national cultures. The English writer Charles Dickens expressed these values in a deep philosophical and artistic sense in his works. His novel "A Tale of Two Cities", written in 1859, also has such an ideological basis, in which the concept of humanity is highlighted against the background of revolution, oppression, and change. The work describes the life of Paris and London during the French Revolution and puts forward the idea that a person does not lose his humanity even in conditions of cruelty, anger, and oppression. The relevance of the study is that Dickens expresses the concept of humanity in "A Tale of Two Cities" in a social and moral dimension, through lexical and semantic means. The purpose of the study is to reveal the semantic properties of lexical units that make up the concept of "humanity" in the text of the novel and to analyze their contextual function.

The study used a scientific approach based on the methods of lexical-semantic analysis, contextual analysis and conceptual model. The text of the novel was studied using semantic field analysis. First, lexical units related to the concept of humanity (love, sacrifice, forgiveness, cruelty, vengeance) were isolated from the text. Then, antonymic pairs of these units were identified and analyzed based on semantic contrasts. Also, metaphorical and emotional means of expression were studied based on contextual analysis, and it was determined how humanity is expressed through Dickens's artistic language. The original English edition of the writer's novel "A Tale of Two Cities" (1859) was used for the analysis.

As a result of the analysis, it was found that the concept of humanity in “A Tale of Two Cities” is manifested in three main semantic groups: love, compassion, tenderness, sacrifice, forgiveness, mercy, and their opposites — anger, hatred, and cruelty. These units linguistically express the idea of preserving humanity in the conditions of the social background — revolution and punishments. Dickens widely uses antonymic pairs to reveal moral dualism in the work: love ↔ hate, mercy ↔ cruelty, forgiveness ↔ vengeance. For example, the image of Madame Defarge embodies the semantics of cruelty and revenge, while Lucie Manette is the embodiment of the concepts of love and forgiveness. Through these opposites, the writer shows the spiritual victory of humanity over evil. Dickens's language is distinguished by its rich metaphors. The phrase “A light in the darkness” is a symbol of hope for humanity, the phrase “A seed of mercy planted in the heart” is a spiritual expression of forgiveness, and “The tide of vengeance” serves as a metaphor for the power of anger and cruelty. These examples show that the writer depicts humanity as a positive semantic energy, and evil as a reverse emotional current. The language of the novel has a strong emotional and accentuative character, and phrases such as noble heart, pure soul, gentle nature evoke feelings of pity, gratitude, and hope in the reader. Through this, Dickens expresses humanity not only as a semantic but also as an emotional experience.

#### Conclusion

The results of the analysis show that in the novel “A Tale of Two Cities” the concept of “humanity” is formed as a complex lexical system with moral and spiritual content. It reflects the struggle of evil and good through antonymic oppositions, and through metaphorical means interprets humanity as a symbol of hope, sacrifice and forgiveness. Dickens considers humanity to be a universal value at the heart of social change. Thus, the novel “A Tale of Two Cities” is an artistic model that creates a humanistic concept of humanity at the lexical-semantic level, and through the language of Dickens proves that humanity is a spiritual victory of man over oppression and hatred.

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