

# Washington Irving's Satirical Works: Folk Life And Social Issues

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the satirical interpretation of historical events in the works of the American writer Washington Irving. In his writings, the author highlights social and cultural processes through humor and irony, offering a critical perspective on the issues of his time. The study examines Irving's use of satirical devices, his artistic expression, and his skill in portraying historical events in a vivid and imaginative way. Furthermore, the article explores how social shortcomings and human traits are revealed through satire, supported by relevant examples. The paper aims to identify the literary and cognitive-linguistic aspects of Irving's творчество.

**Keywords:** Washington Irving, satire, social criticism, artistic expression, humor, irony, historical events, literary analysis, cognitive linguistics, social life

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqolada amerikalik yozuvchi Vashington Irving asarlarida davr voqealarining satirik talqini tahlil qilinadi. Muallif o'z ijodida jamiyatdagi ijtimoiy va madaniy jarayonlarni kulgi va istehzo orqali yoritib, o'sha davr muammolariga tanqidiy yondashgan. Irvingning satira vositalaridan foydalanish uslubi, badiiy ifoda imkoniyatlari hamda tarixiy voqealarni obrazli aks ettirishdagi mahorati ko'rib chiqiladi. Shuningdek, uning asarlarida satira orqali jamiyatdagi kamchiliklar va insoniy xususiyatlarning ochib berilishi misollar asosida tahlil qilinadi. Maqola Irving ijodining adabiy va kognitiv-lingvistik jihatlarini ochib berishga xizmat qiladi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Vashington Irving, satira, ijtimoiy tanqid, badiiy ifoda, kulgi, istehzo, tarixiy voqealar, adabiy tahlil, kognitiv lingvistika, ijtimoiy hayot

**Аннотация:** В данной статье анализируется сатирическое отражение событий эпохи в произведениях американского писателя Вашингтона Ирвинга. В своём творчестве автор освещает социальные и культурные процессы общества посредством юмора и иронии, критически осмысливая проблемы своего времени. Рассматриваются особенности использования сатирических средств Ирвинга, его художественные возможности, а также мастерство образного отражения исторических событий. Кроме того, на основе примеров анализируется раскрытие общественных недостатков и человеческих качеств через сатиру в его произведениях. Статья направлена на выявление литературных и когнитивно-лингвистических аспектов творчества Ирвинга.

**Ключевые слова:** Вашингтон Ирвинг, сатира, социальная критика, художественное выражение, юмор, ирония, исторические события, литературный анализ, когнитивная лингвистика, общественная жизнь

Satire contains "the attack of embittered feeling, the energy of noble anger, thunder and lightning." These features become even more pronounced in satirical stories. The language of satire is like a sharp scalpel that exposes corruption. It can affect its target as quickly as an electric current and spiritually shatter it instantly. Writing satirical novellas and essays, W. Irving criticizes bourgeois America and its representatives. In works such as "*The Devil and Tom Walker*" and "*Tales of a Traveller*" he opposes the policy of exterminating Native American tribes.

One of Irving's most famous works, which brought him wide recognition, is "*The Devil and Tom Walker*," and it also serves as an important object of this study. In this story, Irving uses satire to mock the Puritans of 18th-century New England. The spirit of the time dominates the narrative: hypocrisy, usury, greed, materialism, religious hypocrisy, and the exposure of slavery. Greed and selfishness lead to self-destruction, and sinful behavior results in punishment, even death.

"*The Devil and Tom Walker*" is the story of three characters: Tom Walker, his wife, and the Devil. Tom Walker is an extremely miserly man, and his wife is equally greedy. They hide money from each other and constantly try to deceive one another to increase their wealth. Tom is a satirical character who is a

hypocritical, cunning, selfish individual obsessed with wealth. His loss of humanity in pursuit of riches, and even his indifference to his wife's death, are portrayed humorously. His character is exposed through satirical situations.

Expressions such as "miserliness," "extreme greed," and "nagging nature" reflect bitter satire. The central theme of the satire is greed. The characters ultimately pay the price for their insatiable desires. Family relationships are also satirized Irving mocks disrespectful wives and exaggerates marital conflicts. He suggests that living with a quarrelsome wife is as bad as living with the devil.

Tom eventually becomes a wealthy usurer, blinded by money and devoid of compassion. Irving satirizes social injustice, showing how Tom exploits the poor mercilessly. The phrase "friend of the poor" is used ironically, as Tom actually ruins those in need.

Irving also criticizes religion and religious hypocrisy. Superficial piety and false devotion are ridiculed. Tom attempts to atone for his sins through religious practices, but his hypocrisy ultimately leads to his downfall. His pact with the devil cannot be undone, and he meets a tragic end.

Humor, derived from the Latin *humor* ("moisture"), represents a lighter form of criticism. Unlike satire, humor does not aim to destroy its object but to correct it. However, satire and humor often coexist. Irving skillfully combines both in his works. For example, in "*The Legend of the Enchanted Soldier*" humorous elements dominate. The exaggerated description of the character's appearance demonstrates Irving's use of humor. Similarly, in "*The Spectre Bridegroom*" (1819-1820) Irving blends satire, irony, and comedy to depict social traditions such as arranged marriages and patriarchal norms.

The story tells of a young bride whose fiancé dies on the way to the wedding. His friend takes his place but later confesses the truth. Despite the tragic premise, the story ends happily, emphasizing love over social constraints. Irving uses satire to criticize arranged marriages and rigid social structures.

Thus, Washington Irving made a significant contribution to American literature through his satirical and humorous works. His writings reflect social realities, criticize moral flaws, and reveal the complexities of human nature through satire and humor.

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