

## EXPLORING THE MAIN PURPOSES OF MALCOLM LOWRY'S "UNDER THE VOLCANO"

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**Abstract.** Literature is not only one of the most viable sources of the language but also teaches us to deal with different situations or gives the impression of other periods. The novel called “Under the volcano” which is written by Malcolm Lowry has its own unique features. This paper explore the main purposes and specific features of this novel.

**Key words:** novel, purpose, main features, characters, specific features, alcoholism, reality, redemption, personal growth.

**Абстрактный.** Литература является не только одним из наиболее жизнеспособных источников языка, но также учит нас справляться с различными ситуациями или создает впечатление о других периодах. Роман Малкольма Лоури «Под вулканом» имеет свои уникальные особенности. В данной статье раскрываются основные цели и особенности данного романа.

**Ключевые слова:** роман, цель, основные черты, персонажи, индивидуальные черты, алкоголизм, реальность, искупление, личностный рост.

**Abstrakt.** Adabiyot nafaqat tilning eng hayotiy manbalaridan biri, balki bizni turli vaziyatlardan chiqishga o'rgatadi yoki boshqa davrlar taassurotlarini beradi. Malkolm Lourining “Vulqon ostida” romani o‘ziga xos xususiyatlarga ega. Ushbu maqola ushbu romanning asosiy maqsadi va xususiyatlarini ochib beradi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** roman, maqsad, asosiy xususiyatlar, belgilar, individual xususiyatlar, alkogolizm, haqiqat, qutqarish, shaxsiy o'sish.

**Introduction.** Malcolm Lowry's "Under the Volcano," published in 1947, is a seminal work in modernist literature that delves into the complexities of the human condition, existentialism, and the search for meaning in a chaotic world. Set against the backdrop of Mexico on the Day of the Dead, the novel follows Geoffrey Firmin, a British consul grappling with alcoholism, personal demons, and the socio-political landscape of the time. This article aims to explore the main purposes of "Under the Volcano," focusing on its themes of existentialism, the effects of colonialism, the nature of love and redemption, and the interplay between reality and perception.

**Literal review.** One of the primary purposes of "Under the Volcano" is to explore existential themes and the human condition. Lowry presents Geoffrey Firmin

as a tragic figure who embodies the struggle for identity and meaning in a world that seems indifferent to individual suffering. The novel examines existential questions about free will, choice, and the inevitability of death.[1] Firmin's descent into alcoholism serves as a metaphor for his inability to confront his reality and make meaningful choices. Through Firmin's journey, Lowry invites readers to reflect on their own existence and the search for purpose amidst chaos.[2] Another significant purpose of "Under the Volcano" is to critique colonialism and its lingering effects on both colonizers and the colonized. Set in post-revolutionary Mexico, the novel highlights the tensions between British expatriates and the local population. Lowry uses Firmin's character to represent the disillusionment and moral decay of colonial figures who are unable to adapt to a changing world.[3] The portrayal of Mexican culture, rituals, and landscapes contrasts sharply with Firmin's internal struggles, emphasizing the disconnection between colonial ideals and reality. Through this lens, Lowry critiques not only colonial attitudes but also the broader implications of cultural imperialism.

**Methodology.** The theme of love and its potential for redemption is another crucial aspect of "Under the Volcano." The relationship between Geoffrey Firmin and his estranged wife, Yvonne, serves as a focal point for exploring love's complexities. Yvonne's return to Firmin symbolizes hope for reconciliation and redemption; however, their interactions reveal deep-seated issues of communication, trust, and dependency. Lowry portrays love as both a destructive and redemptive force, illustrating how personal relationships can be fraught with misunderstanding yet also offer pathways to healing.[4] Ultimately, the novel suggests that love, while often painful, is essential for personal growth and redemption.

Lowry also delves into the interplay between reality and perception throughout "Under the Volcano." The narrative structure is nonlinear and fragmented, reflecting Firmin's disoriented state of mind due to his alcoholism.[5] This technique challenges readers to question what constitutes reality and how subjective experiences shape one's understanding of the world. The Day of the Dead festivities serve as a backdrop for this exploration, blurring the lines between life and death, memory and forgetfulness. Lowry's use of symbolism and rich imagery further complicates these themes, inviting readers to engage with multiple layers of meaning.[6]

**Analysis and results.** When it comes to the main features of this novel, we should admit that it is based on to show existentialism and the human condition in that period, the effects of colonialism, the nature of love and redemption, reality and perception, as well. Certainly, all of the features mentioned above is highly essential for every reader.

**Conclusion.** In conclusion, Malcolm Lowry's "Under the Volcano" serves multiple purposes that resonate deeply with readers. Through its exploration of

existentialism, colonialism, love, and the nature of reality, the novel invites a profound reflection on the human experience. Lowry's masterful narrative weaves together these themes to create a rich tapestry that speaks to the complexities of life, urging readers to confront their own struggles with meaning and identity. As a modernist classic, "Under the Volcano" continues to captivate audiences with its poignant insights into the human condition, making it an enduring work in literary history.

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