

SAMUEL RICHARDSON'S PAMELA IS THE FIRST ENGLISH NOVEL

Ibragimova Dilafruz Shukhratovna

Senior Lecturer of the Department "Practical English"

FSU.

Gulhayo Akramova Ikromjon qizi

Student of the Faculty English Language and Literature

FSU.

Abstract: This article explores the epistolary novel, "Pamela" by Samuel Richardson, considered the first English novel, revolutionized literature with its focus on the psychological development of the protagonist and its exploration of themes such as social class, gender roles. Its epistolary format, provided an intimate and engaging perspective on Pamela's experiences and inner thoughts, influencing the development of the novel as a literary genre.

Keywords: Samuel Richardson, Pamela, His famous works, Literary style, Skill of using words, Religious upbringing, Class barriers, Contemporary view of love, Theme of naivety.

Аннотация: В этой статье исследуется эпистолярный роман Сэмюэля Ричардсона «Памела», который считается первым английским романом, произведшим революцию в литературе благодаря акценту на психологическом развитии главного героя и исследованию таких тем, как социальный класс и гендерные роли. Его эпистолярный формат предоставил интимный и увлекательный взгляд на переживания и внутренние мысли Памелы, что повлияло на развитие романа как литературного жанра.

Ключевые слова: Сэмюэл Ричардсон, Памела, Его знаменитые произведения, Литературный стиль, Словарные навыки, Религиозное воспитание, Классовые барьеры, Современный взгляд на любовь.

Izoh: Ushbu maqolada Samuel Richardsonning "Pamela" epistolyar romani, birinchi ingliz romani hisoblangan, qahramonning psixologik rivojlanishi va ijtimoiy sinf, jins rollari kabi mavzularni o'rganishga qaratishi bilan adabiyotda keskin burilish berishi, uning epistolyar formati, romanning adabiy janr sifatida rivojlanishiga qanday ta'sir ko'rsatishi haqida ko'rib chiqiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: Samuel Richardson, Pamela, Uning mashhur asarlari, Adabiy uslub, So'z qo'llash mahorati, Diniy tarbiya, Sinf to'siqlari, Sevgining zamonaviy ko'rinishi.

Samuel Richardson was an English writer and printer known for three epistolary novels: *Pamela; or, Virtue Rewarded* (1740), *Clarissa: Or the History of a Young Lady* (1748) and *The History of Sir Charles Grandison* (1753).

Literary critics and readers have long struggled to comprehend how a devout and sensitive woman in England's initial novel, *Pamela* (1740) by Samuel Richardson, could justify marrying a man who relentlessly mistreated her verbally and physically, kidnapped her, kept her captive, and attempted to assault her twice. It is only in *Clarissa* (1747-1748) that a morally satisfactory explanation is provided. Nonetheless, ongoing investigations into social history are gradually enlightening us about the significant disparities in emotional experiences between our ancestors and contemporary society.

What *Pamela; or, Virtue Rewarded* is an epistolary novel first published in 1740 by the English writer Samuel Richardson. Considered one of the first true English novels, it serves as Richardson's version of conduct literature about marriage.

The novel "Pamela" follows the story of a fifteen-year-old servant named Pamela Andrews, who faces unwanted advances from her employer, Mr. B, a wealthy landowner. Despite her religious upbringing, Pamela struggles to navigate her feelings for Mr. B while maintaining her morals. After enduring multiple inappropriate advances and a period of being held against her will, Mr. B eventually changes his ways and proposes to Pamela. In the second part of the novel, Pamela marries Mr. B and adjusts to her new life in high society.

The full title, *Pamela; or, Virtue Rewarded*, makes plain Richardson's moral purpose. A best-seller of its time, *Pamela* was widely read but was also criticised for its perceived licentiousness and disregard for class barriers.

Furthermore, *Pamela* was an early commentary on domestic violence and brought into question the dynamic line between male aggression and a contemporary view of love. Moreover, *Pamela*, despite the controversies, shed light on social issues that transcended the novel for the time such as gender roles, early false-imprisonment, and class barriers present in the eighteenth century. The action of the novel is told through letters and journal entries from Pamela to her parents 'His eye always on the ladies,' so much Richardson admits in the famous description of himself which he gave to Lady Bradshaigh' [5;76].

Pamela and the title heroine were popular and gave a proper model for how women should act, they inspired "a storm of anti-Pamelas" (like Henry Fielding's *Shamela* and Joseph Andrews and Eliza Haywood's *The Anti-Pamela*) because the character "perfectly played her part" [2;55].

Richardson highlights a theme of naivety, illustrated through the eyes of Pamela. Richardson paints Pamela herself as innocent and meek and further contributes to the theme of her being short-sighted to emphasize the ideas of childhood innocence and naivety. [1;101]

In conclusion, Samuel Richardson's novel "*Pamela* stands as a pivotal work in English literature, offering a complex exploration of morality, social norms, and gender dynamics in the 18th century. Through the character of Pamela Andrews, Richardson delves into the intricate facets of human behavior, showcasing the challenges faced by women in a society rife with power imbalances and expectations. The moral ambiguity surrounding Pamela's decisions and the portrayal of her transformation from a vulnerable servant girl to a respected lady provoke deep reflection on societal values and individual agency. Richardson's use of the epistolary format adds depth to the narrative, allowing readers to experience Pamela's emotional journey firsthand. Despite the

controversies and criticisms it faced in its time, "Pamela" remains a significant literary work that continues to spark discussions on themes such as domestic violence, gender roles, and the complexities of human relationships.

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