



## LITERARY ANALYSIS OF THE WORK OF M. MITCHELL "GONE WITH THE WIND"

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### Abstract

At this stage of the development of linguistics, there is a huge interest in the study of the features of the translation of fiction, the translation of works that belong to the genre of the novel, and scientists are also interested in the analysis of such translations and its practical significance and use on the examples of novels, which is a wide scope for study and research. Since this work is devoted to the study of figurative artistic means in fiction, the subject of the study was a work of fiction written by Margaret Mitchell "Gone with the Wind". Thus, great attention in this study was paid to the study of the features and analysis of the genre of the novel and its main characteristics and features, since the novel is one of the most popular genres of popular literature.

**Keywords:** white families, survivors, behind the throne, un-feminine.

"Gone with the Wind" is a novel that describes a love story against the backdrop of the civil war between the North and South of America. The American Civil War is the most destructive war in the history of this country; it was a war between two ways of life. The economy of the southern states was mainly based on cotton cultivation and the old colonial way of life. The "white families" had huge plantations that were farmed by black slaves. White families lived according to old European aristocratic values. The northern states led a more industrial and aristocratic lifestyle. In many of them, slavery was made illegal, and there was a growing movement that wanted to get rid of slavery throughout the United States. The South perceived this as a threat and 11 states decided to secede from the Union and created an independent country, the American Confederacy, in 1861. This led to war, as the North decided to fight against the breakup of the Union. First the Confederacy (that is, the South) won the war, it won the battles in Virginia during 1863. But after the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in July 1863, the Southern forces, which were much weaker, had to retreat. General William Sherman of the North began his march through the South, deliberately destroying everything in his path. The Battle of Atlanta, Georgia in 1864, was one



of the heaviest and bloodiest battles of the war, resulting in a fire that destroyed much of the city. In April 184, the South surrendered.

"The main theme of the novel, if there is one, is survival." This is what Margaret Mitchell wrote about her novel when it was first published. "What helps some people survive disasters, go through difficulties, and why do others, just as strong and brave, die? What qualities do those who make their way forward possess, and what are those who fall to the bottom lacking? I only know that the "survivors" used to call this quality sharpness. So, I wrote a novel about people who have sharpness, and who do not have it".

Scarlett and Rhett are "survivors" because they adapt to the changes caused by war and Reconstruction. While the old society of the South sees the war as a disaster that tears their world apart, Rhett sees it as an opportunity to make money: "Money can be made on the fall of civilization and on its rise". He becomes a speculator who makes money from the scarcity of food and other goods caused by the war. By the end of the war, he is one of the few rich people in Atlanta. Scarlett, too, clings to the opportunity to capitalize on the devastation left by the war, and she begins to sell lumber, after the Yankees burned Atlanta and people began to rebuild after the war.

Ashley and Melanie try to survive after the war, as they do not manage to adapt. They represent the way of life of the old South, which focused on family, honor and tradition. After the war, Ashley longs for the sweet old days of plantation life. But he's a bad planter in Tara, and when Scarlett makes him manager of one of her sawmills, he fails there, too. But he's shrewd enough to know what's going on. He says, "In the end, what will happen is what happens every time a civilization collapses. People who have a head on their shoulders and courage survive, and those who do not, are eliminated. I am one of the latter."

Melanie is more flexible and adaptable than Ashley. She staunchly faces reality, supports Scarlett in all the difficulties caused by the war and Reconstruction, and, in the end, she impresses Scarlett with courage and perseverance. But she is physically weak, shy, and too attached to the old social customs to make her way in the harsh conditions of modern society. Her charity work after the war indicates that unlike Rhett and Scarlett, who look forward, she looks back.

Several characters in the novel go through important lessons in love. Scarlett only understands what love is at the end of the novel. The rest of her life, she is in love with the well-bred Ashley, with whom they are different as heaven and earth, and who is inaccessible to her, since he is married to Melanie. Scarlett's



feelings for Ashley are at the heart of the plot; Scarlett supports the Wilkes family only for Ashley's sake. As a result of her "obsession" with Ashley, Scarlett is unable to appreciate the love and support Rhett Butler has lavished on her over the years. She is also unable to understand how similar they are, due to her blind prejudice and belief that Rhett is "not a gentleman". Also, Scarlett doesn't like the fact that Rhett reads all her thoughts and anticipates all her actions, which makes him immune to her insults and manipulations. Finally, Scarlett realizes that her love for Ashley is fictitious, and he is not at all suitable for her, Rhett is the perfect match for her, but it becomes too late, Rhett's love has "worn out".

Rhett, on the other hand, immediately notices how similar they are to Scarlett, and immediately falls in love with her. Although he doesn't show his feelings right away because, as he later tells her,; "You are so cruel to those who love you, Scarlett. You take this love and hold it over their heads like a whip"

Ashley has the same destructive delusion about Scarlett. He does not leave Melanie because he is too noble, but he does not have the courage to break up completely with Scarlett, encouraging her love with his kisses and encouraging her to believe that he loves her. As Rhett points out, this behavior is not noble and respectful to both women. Rhett believes that Ashley is not interested in what Scarlett has in her head; he only wants to possess her body. This interpretation is confirmed by Ashley's inability to see Scarlett in her true light. When Scarlett is outraged that he can't bring enough profit to her sawmill, Ashley thinks that Rhett has made her rude, even though Scarlett has enough of her own rudeness. Melanie also loves Scarlett, and is unable to see the dark side of her character. And only Rhett sees Scarlett through and through, with all her advantages and disadvantages, and no matter what, loves her, but Scarlett is too self-absorbed to see it.

In parallel, Ashley does not realize how much he relies on Melanie and how much he loves her until she is on her deathbed. Scarlett also comes to a realization about Melanie, who was the center of her intense hatred. The lesson is that you need to appreciate the people who are around until they are gone.

Also in the novel, you can trace the idea of the place of women and men in society. The antebellum South is a place of clear gender division. Women are taught that you need to get married successfully, prepare for the birth of children and the management of the economy. Scarlett at this time thinks only about flirting, about how to seem like a lady, to hide her real unrestrained, not at all ladylike nature. The seed of her future success in running a business is already visible at



the beginning, in her talented ability to count. When she starts running her own business, this talent turns out to be in her favor and helps her beat the competition. In a broad sense, she is also calculating, never misses a chance to grab a profitable opportunity, and she does not care what the price is. The factor that allows her to break out of the role of a staid Southern beauty and become a successful businesswoman is war. Before the war, the economy of the South was based on planters. Certain roles were assigned to both the men who ran the plantations and the women who ran the household, raised the children, and looked after the welfare of the slaves. Note, however, that although Gerald takes credit for managing Tara, the real manager is actually Ellen. She makes calculations, deals with slaves and laborers, and is a recognized authority in Tara. This state of affairs was common and accepted by society, and did not contradict traditional gender roles, since Gerald was in charge, and Ellen quietly and imperceptibly ruled "behind the throne".

The war is destroying the plantations, and with it the traditional economic and social systems. Southern gentlemen can do nothing but work on the plantations, and are unable to survive in the new world of business. Only the strongest, bravest, and most adaptable find new sources of income, and sometimes it's women like Scarlett. Although the old Atlanta society disapproves of Scarlett for her "un-feminine" business behavior, the war at least allowed women to break out of the traditional female role, something that could not even be thought of before the war. Scarlett begins to talk and act like a man, becomes the head of Tara, supports the Wilkes family, takes Ashley to work at the sawmill, that is, does all the things that were previously the prerogative of men. Scarlett's reluctance not to have children was unusually strange both for the times in which Scarlett lived, and for the times of the author himself. But this reluctance underscores her reluctance to embrace the traditional female role. Inevitably, a woman who tries on a male role inevitably humiliates a man. Notably, Scarlett's second husband, Frank, is treated like an "old woman in knickers", and sometimes Ashley looks more feminine than Scarlett, and he has to obey her orders at the sawmill.

Rhett Butler is the only man in Atlanta who constantly supports Scarlett in running the business. It also expresses feminist thoughts. For example, he does not see the point in "locking widows at home" and not letting them have a good time, or in the fact that pregnant women have to hide from prying eyes. In fact, he helps three women: Scarlett, Belle Watling, Miss Meriwether. Miss



Meriwether, who runs a bakery, doesn't get as much criticism for running a business as Scarlett does. As Rhett thinks, only because she doesn't show the pleasure of doing business and doesn't allow herself to be too successful. And maybe also because the male part of the family helps her and the business is built around a traditionally female occupation-baking.

The traditional strict class division of the South is crumbling because of the war. Before the war, plantation owners were at the top of the social hierarchy, although the division is noticeable even in this sector, for example, old aristocratic families such as Robillard are placed above, such as the family of Gerald, who made himself, but by birth remained at the bottom. The plantation owners are taller than their overseers, who are taller than the slaves. Among the slaves, domestic slaves rank higher than field slaves. In turn, all the slaves are contemptuous of "white trash", such as Slaters, who are at the bottom of the pyramid.

A war in which plantations are destroyed and slaves are freed destroys this hierarchy. Those who were at the top and set the law, and those who were at the bottom, but who have the practical skills to rise in a newly burgeoning society. Once powerful gentlemen from large plantation families, such as the Ashleys, no longer carry weight unless they have practical skills, such as in farming or business. Poor Will Benteen is able to become the master of Tara, as he has skills in farming and general skills. In addition to the fact that war destroys the social structure, it also begins to destroy secular conventions that previously did not go beyond the strict limits of decency. Young men and women ignore the accepted rules of courtship and marry in a hurry, before the man is called into the army. People ignore the class division in choosing a partner for starting a family, and prefer the more practical aspects of the personality that help to survive. So, the aristocrat Kathleen Calvert marries the former overseer of their estate, Mr. Hilton, only to have her younger brother looked after. Will Benteen may marry Suellen O'Hara, a woman who, before the war, would have been out of his reach. Rhett, who is extremely disapproved of by society at the beginning of the novel because he spent the whole night with a girl he later refused to marry, is taken back by this very society when he starts delivering goods that were scarce during the war. The most shocking moment in the novel, which crosses all the boundaries of decency, is that many "respectable" gentlemen of Atlanta find themselves beholden to a prostitute, Belle Watling, who provides their alibi after the murder and raid of the Kuklux Clan.





It can also be noted that the novel "Gone with the Wind" is riddled with irony. The main irony is that Scarlett's obsession with Ashley does not allow her to evaluate Rhett as the perfect match for her. In parallel, Ashley only realizes how much she loves Melanie when she dies. Similarly, Scarlett hates and despises Melanie for most of the novel, while Melanie loves and protects her, a fact that infuriates Scarlett. Like Ashley, Scarlett only realizes how much she values Melanie when she dies. It is also ironic that Melanie insists on attributing such qualities as altruism and bravery to Scarlett, when, in fact, Scarlett only acts this way because she promised her beloved Ashley.

The destruction of the social hierarchy leads to many ironic situations. John Wilkerson, former manager of Tara, heads the Freedmen's Bureau after the war. He gains power and manages to raise the tax on Tara so high that Scarlett will probably have to sell him the estate. Wilkerson and Emmy Sletteri arrive in Tara in a beautiful carriage, in expensive clothes, and offer to buy the estate. The irony is that before the war, O'Hara wanted to buy the Slettery land, but the latter were too proud to sell it. The war caused this upheaval in wealth.

Another irony is that (from Mitchell's point of view) the Yankee government granted power to freed slaves, while the former ruling class is deprived of power and civil rights. The Yankees care for and manipulate freed slaves after the war, as it is their votes that decide who is appointed to public office. Mitchell says "It's as if a giant evil hand has turned the South upside down, and those who once held power are even more helpless than their slaves once were." The former ruling class does not have the right to vote, while the former slaves do.

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