

## SCIENCE FICTION AS A GENRE OF CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE: ARTISTIC AND IDEOLOGICAL FEATURES

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### **Abstract**

The article considers science fiction as an independent genre of contemporary literature. It analyses the main artistic and ideological features of science fiction and reveals its role in understanding scientific and technological progress and social processes. Particular attention is paid to the genre's specificity, its system of images, and the issues addressed in science fiction works. The article concludes with a discussion of the significance of science fiction as a form of artistic modelling of the future and a reflection of contemporary philosophical, ethical, and cultural issues.

### **Keywords**

science fiction, genre, artistic features, ideological issues, contemporary literature, image of the future.

Science fiction occupies a special place in contemporary literature, representing a genre in which artistic imagination is closely intertwined with scientific ideas and philosophical reflections on the future of humanity. Emerging at the intersection of science and art, science fiction has become a form of artistic reflection on scientific and technological progress, its possible consequences and impact on humans and society.

As a literary genre, science fiction is focused not so much on depicting reality as on modelling alternative worlds, future social systems and hypothetical situations based on scientific assumptions. At the same time, unlike fairy tales or fantasy, the fantastical element in science fiction is based on rational explanations related to scientific achievements or their possible development.

In literary studies, science fiction is seen as a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that combines elements of various genres: utopia, dystopia, philosophical novel, social satire, and adventure literature. This genre flexibility allows science fiction to raise a wide range of issues, from technical and scientific to moral, ethical, and existential.

One of the key artistic features of science fiction is its focus on the image of the future. In works of this genre, the future is not only a temporal category, but also an artistic device that allows the author to distance themselves from the present and thus more objectively comprehend the pressing issues of their time. Through their depictions of future worlds, science fiction writers often address issues such as human responsibility for the consequences of scientific progress, the limits of scientific knowledge, and the relationship between technology and humanistic values.

The idea of experimentation plays an important role in science fiction. The artistic world of a science fiction work is often constructed as a thought experiment in which certain scientific, social, or philosophical hypotheses are tested. This approach brings science fiction closer to philosophy and allows the genre to be viewed as a special form of intellectual literature.

The artistic system of science fiction is characterised by specific imagery. The characters in these works often find themselves in situations that require them to rethink familiar norms and values, which contributes to a deeper revelation of the inner world of the heroes. In science fiction, humans are portrayed as beings in constant dialogue with science, technology, and their own future.

Thus, science fiction as a genre of contemporary literature is a complex artistic form that combines elements of scientific knowledge, philosophical reflection, and artistic imagination. It is precisely this synthetic nature of the genre that ensures its enduring interest among readers and researchers.

Thematic issues and artistic features of science fiction:

The thematic issues of science fiction are closely linked to the understanding of the role of humans in the context of rapid scientific and technological development. One of the central themes of the genre is the problem of human-technology interaction. In science fiction works, technology often appears not only as an instrument of progress, but also as a factor capable of changing the essence of human existence, the system of values and social relations.

Science fiction authors often address issues of scientific and social responsibility for the results of scientific discoveries. Scientific progress within the genre is viewed ambiguously: on the one hand, it opens up new opportunities for the development of civilisation, but on the other, it carries with it the potential threat of losing humanistic values. This dual attitude towards science gives science fiction a distinctly philosophical character.

Social issues occupy a significant place in science fiction. Works in this genre often model future forms of social organisation, revealing their strengths and weaknesses. Through the depiction of alternative social systems, writers raise

questions of personal freedom, power, social justice, and control over human consciousness. In this respect, science fiction is closely related to the genre of dystopia, but it is not entirely limited to it.

The artistic features of science fiction are also evident in the specificity of narrative techniques. The genre is characterised by a combination of scientific terminology and artistic language, which requires the author to strike a special balance between rational and figurative elements. The scientific ideas underlying the work must be organically incorporated into the artistic fabric of the text and serve to develop the plot and reveal the ideological concept.

Symbolism plays a special role in science fiction. Science fiction images – space, artificial intelligence, other civilisations, experiments on humans – often take on symbolic meaning and are used to express abstract philosophical and ethical ideas. Thanks to this, science fiction goes beyond the realm of entertainment literature and takes on the characteristics of a deeply intellectual genre.

Another important artistic technique is the use of hypotheses as the basis for the narrative. A science fiction work is built around an assumption about the possible development of science or society, and the further development of the plot demonstrates the consequences of the realisation of this hypothesis. This technique allows the author to explore extreme situations and reveal hidden patterns of human behaviour.

Thus, the ideological and artistic specificity of science fiction is determined by its focus on understanding the future through the prism of contemporary problems. The genre combines elements of scientific knowledge, philosophical reflection and artistic fiction, which gives it a special place in the system of contemporary literature.

In conclusion, it should be noted that science fiction as a genre of contemporary literature is a complex and multifaceted artistic phenomenon. It is formed at the intersection of scientific knowledge, philosophical reflection and artistic imagination, which allows it to go beyond the boundaries of traditional narrative and perform important worldview functions.

The artistic features of science fiction are manifested in the specificity of its imagery, the use of hypothetical models of the future, and special narrative techniques based on scientific assumptions. These features contribute to the creation of original artistic worlds in which the pressing issues of the present are considered in relation to a possible future.

The ideological orientation of science fiction lies primarily in understanding the relationship between man and science, the responsibility of the individual and society for the results of technological progress, and in exploring the social and

ethical consequences of scientific discoveries. Through artistic images and plot constructions, the genre raises questions of universal significance for the development of human civilisation.

Thus, science fiction occupies a significant place in contemporary literature, serving not only as a form of artistic imagination, but also as a means of philosophical and social analysis. The sustained interest in the genre is due to its ability to respond to the challenges of the times and offer artistic models for understanding the future, confirming its relevance and scientific value.

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