

## LITERARY INTERPRETATION OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY IN THE NOVEL “MARTIN EDEN”

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**Abstract:** Literary interpretation of social psychology in the novel “Martin Eden” is analyzed in the article.

**Keywords:** social psychology, spiritual illness, to have aversion for life, physical strength, mental power, recognition.

### **Annotation**

The current novel, “Martin Eden,” explores the journey of a working-class sailor who aspires to become a successful writer to win the love of a woman from a privileged background. It delves into themes of ambition, class struggle, and identity while highlighting the harsh realities of societal indifference. Additionally, the narrative examines Martin's disillusionment and personal despair as he navigates the complexities of his dreams and the costs associated with them, ultimately reflecting on the human experience from 1909 to the present.

Events of realistic novel are held in certain historical period and place. In each historical period general mental signs, views and system of relations are formed which are called in science as “social psychology”. Writer, drawing literary scene of this or that period, just is not able to put aside motives of social psychology. Historical view of the period, we can say, social reality, on the contrary is literarily reshaped by prospect of this period’s people. While reading life experience of Martin – protagonist of the book “Martin Eden” by Jack London representative of American literature, reader can easily imagine the views and social opinions of the time. In “Martin Eden” we observe such 2 sides of social psychology in concrete social system in which general viewpoint lead to the intensification of conflict between the main hero and minor characters, in the result, becoming the reason for both destroying Martin and Ruth’s love and the tragedy of protagonist.

### **Abstract.**

The novel “Martin Eden” is a novel that follows the journey of a working-class sailor, Martin Eden, who aspires to become a successful writer to win the love of Ruth Morse, a woman from a wealthy background. The story explores themes of ambition, class struggle, identity, and the harsh realities of societal indifference. As Martin pursues his dreams, he faces disillusionment and personal despair, ultimately highlighting the costs of ambition and the complexities of the human experience.

### **Introduction.**

The narrative begins with Martin facing Ruth Morse, a refined young woman from a higher social class, who sparks his aspiration to become one of the successful writers and win her love. The initial meeting between Martin Eden and Ruth Morse ignites Martin's internal struggles as he seeks identity, knowledge, and acceptance in a world that feels alien to him. The stark contrast between Martin's working-class background and Ruth's privileged upbringing underscores the themes of class struggle and the pursuit of the American Dream, laying the groundwork for the novel's exploration of ambition and disillusionment.

### **Methodology.**

In this research, the novel explains profound disillusionment and tragedy, as Martin's relentless quest for success results in personal despair. This illustrates the high cost of ambition and serves as a commentary on the futility of his dreams against societal indifference. The novel's exploration of these themes—ambition, identity, and social dynamics—renders it a rich and thought-provoking examination of the human experience.

### **Literature review**

“Martin Eden” by Jack London is a profound exploration of human tragedy, encapsulating the struggles of an individual against societal constraints and personal aspirations. The novel follows Martin Eden, a working-class sailor who aspires to become a successful writer and win the love of Ruth Morse, a woman from a higher social class.

**Class Struggle:** Martin's journey is marked by his relentless pursuit of knowledge and artistic success, which is constantly thwarted by the rigid class structures of society. His efforts to elevate himself socially and intellectually highlight the tragic limitations imposed by his working-class background. Despite his talent and determination, he faces rejection and disdain from the literary elite, illustrating the harsh realities of social mobility.

As Martin becomes more educated and aware of the world around him, he experiences profound isolation. His relationships with friends and family deteriorate as he distances himself from their values and lifestyles. This alienation is a central tragedy of the novel, as Martin finds himself caught between two worlds—one that he aspires to join and another that he is forced to leave behind.

Martin's ambition ultimately leads to his downfall. His obsessive pursuit of success and recognition consumes him, leading to disillusionment and despair. The novel portrays the tragic consequences of his relentless drive, culminating in a sense of futility as he realizes that the very success he seeks does not bring him happiness or fulfillment.

Martin's idealized vision of love and success is shattered as he confronts the harsh realities of life. His relationship with Ruth, initially a source of inspiration, becomes a

symbol of his unattainable dreams. The tragedy lies in his realization that love and success are not guaranteed rewards for hard work and talent.

In summary, “Martin Eden” serves as a poignant commentary on the human condition, illustrating the tragic interplay between ambition, social class, and the quest for identity. Martin’s journey reflects the broader struggles of individuals seeking meaning and belonging in a world that often seems indifferent to their aspirations. The novel ultimately underscores the idea that the pursuit of dreams can lead to profound personal tragedy when confronted with the unyielding forces of society and fate.

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