



EUDORA WELTY'S DEPICTION OF STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS IN "A MEMORY"

Qudratova Sitara

Lecturer at Bukhara State Pedagogical Institute

Savriyeva Shaxinabonu

Student at Bukhara State Pedagogical Institute

Abstract: *In Eudora Welty's short story "A Memory," the stream of consciousness technique delicately reveals the inner experiences and perceptions of an adolescent girl. This article explores analytical approaches to identifying and interpreting the elements of stream of consciousness in the story.*

Keywords: *stream of consciousness, internal monologue, memory, perception, self-identity, adolescent psychology, narrative technique*

The American writer Eudora Welty was born on April 13, 1909, in Jackson, Mississippi. In many of her works, she wrote about the people and nature of Mississippi, the state where she lived. Through her short stories, she became one of the prominent authors who deeply explored themes such as the human psyche, social indifference, and the lack of love and compassion. Her first collection of short stories was titled *A Curtain of Green*. Moreover, she received the Pulitzer Prize for her novel *The Optimist's Daughter*.

Eudora Welty's short story *A Memory* was written in 1937 and was first published in 1941 as part of the collection *The Curtain of Green*¹⁵. This work immediately drew the attention of literary critics and scholars. Notably, the prominent literary critics Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren included an analysis of this story in their influential textbook *Understanding Fiction*, where they regarded it as a powerful artistic step toward spiritual maturity¹⁶. According to them, *A Memory* astonishes the reader with its internal dramatism unsurprisingly so, as the story reveals the complex layers of life not through external events, but through internal experiences.

Welty's contemporary, Katherine Anne Porter, described her style as "serious emotional tremors hidden behind calmness."¹⁷ Porter emphasized that Welty had a remarkable sensitivity in capturing the most subtle and seemingly insignificant moments of life, and that she transformed these moments into literary reality with exceptional artistic mastery. It is precisely this sensitivity that forms the heart of *A Memory*, where the adolescent girl's first impressions about life, her vague yet deeply

¹⁵Welty, E. (1941). *The Curtain of Green*. Harcourt, Brace and Company

¹⁶ Brooks, C., & Warren, R. P. (1943). *Understanding Fiction*. Appleton-Century-Crofts

¹⁷ Porter, K. A. (1950). *The Days Before*. Harcourt, Brace.





MODERN PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS

sincere emotions, are delicately conveyed through the stream of consciousness technique.

Literature is not merely a collection of words; it is a spiritual space that expresses the subtlest vibrations of the human soul. Especially in texts created through the stream of consciousness technique, the reader is drawn away from the external world and led directly into the inner realm of the character. A Memory is one such work that invites the reader on a psychological journey. The events of the story unfold mostly within the character's inner world¹⁸. Her first serious confrontation with the external world is portrayed through a simple yet emotionally charged scene on the beach. This moment triggers an entire chain of psychological transformations.

This aspect is one of the most powerful tools of the stream of consciousness technique and is carried out through internal monologue. The girl listens to herself, drifts within her thoughts, and sometimes confronts truths she has tried to hide from herself. These monologues are not read with the mind but felt with the heart. Their natural flow and lack of structure reflect the unique, often fragmented rhythm of life itself. This draws the reader into an immersive journey through the character's inner world.

Associative thinking forms the core mechanism of the story's structure. At first glance, an ordinary detail such as the smooth surface of the water or an unknown couple walking along the beach connects the girl's consciousness to distant, unclear, yet deeply personal memories. Within herself, she constructs a bridge between childhood and adult life. This bridge seems to rise at the boundary between consciousness and unconsciousness, as her thoughts are often not sequential but rather connected by intuition and inner perception.

In this story, time and space are not represented in a traditional manner, but rather take on an ambiguous form characteristic of the stream of consciousness technique. The past, the present moment, and the imagined future merge into a single narrative line. This allows the reader not only to feel the inner experiences of the girl, but also to re-experience their own childhood memories through her perspective. The story is written so intimately and with such inner resonance that, as Welty herself remarked, it is not merely a memory, but "the echo of memory in the spirit" given artistic form.

Several theoretical approaches can be applied to analyze these psychological processes. Through a psychological analysis, we can explore the girl's internal emotions, her sense of fear and uncertainty, and her first steps toward self-awareness. A formalistic approach reveals Welty's stylistic tools long sentences, pauses, subdued tone, repetition, and emotionally driven dramatic intensity¹⁹. Meanwhile, a

¹⁸ Cohn, D. (1978). *Transparent Minds: Narrative Modes for Presenting Consciousness in Fiction*. Princeton University Press.

¹⁹ . Bal, M. (2009). *Narratology: Introduction to the Theory of Narrative*. University of Toronto Press





MODERN PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS

phenomenological perspective centers on the girl's subjective perception: how she sees, feels, and how these sensations initiate the process of becoming her internal truth.

Thus, *A Memory* is not merely a recollection it is a literary laboratory that shows how memory is reflected in consciousness. Through this story, Welty enables the reader to hear the quiet but powerful music of the inner life.

Conclusion: Literature is an art that captures the deepest, quietest, and most graceful tones of the human soul. Eudora Welty's *A Memory* is a tender, melancholic song of inner turmoil, personal growth, and the quest for self-awareness, spoken in the silent harmonies of the heart. This story uncovers the complex psychological processes hidden behind a seemingly simple event revealing the girl's emotional awakening, her first alertness to the outer world, and an unintentional encounter with life's raw truths.

Welty, through her delicate use of the stream of consciousness technique, invites the reader into an inner journey shaped not by events, but by emotional states. Each thought and reflection of the protagonist though seemingly random is in fact a continuation of her psychological transformation²⁰. The internal monologues, associative connections, and the flow between memories and imaginations together construct the story's emotional landscape.

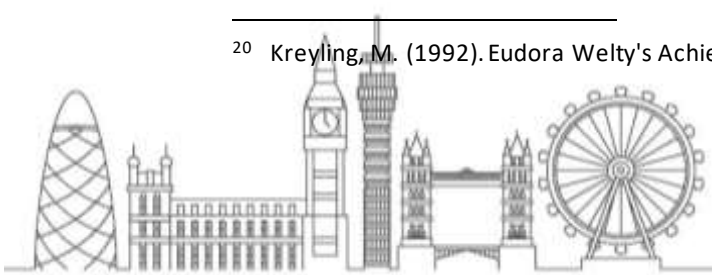
The author's artistic gaze is so subtle that it unveils not the external events themselves, but the emotional layers hidden within them. In the story, time appears to stand still, space becomes dreamlike and indefinite, and everything unfolds within consciousness through feelings. For this reason, *A Memory* resonates uniquely within the inner world of each reader; it confronts them with their own memories, questions, and truths.

Through this work, Eudora Welty addresses not only the inner experiences of an adolescent girl, but also that universal part of the human spirit that longs to return to childhood, to innocence, to the very first moments of understanding. This story is not written with words alone, but with emotion it is a literary memory read by the heart. Its value and impact lie precisely in this.

REFERENCES

1. Welty, E. (1941). *The Curtain of Green*. Harcourt, Brace and Company.
2. Brooks, C., & Warren, R. P. (1943). *Understanding Fiction*. Appleton-Century-Crofts
3. Porter, K. A. (1950). *The Days Before*. Harcourt, Brace.
4. Cohn, D. (1978). *Transparent Minds: Narrative Modes for Presenting Consciousness in Fiction*. Princeton University Press.

²⁰ Kreyling, M. (1992). *Eudora Welty's Achievement of Order*. Louisiana State University Press.





MODERN PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC
SOLUTIONS

5. Bal, M. (2009). *Narratology: Introduction to the Theory of Narrative*. University of Toronto Press.
6. Kreyling, M. (1992). *Eudora Welty's Achievement of Order*. Louisiana State University Press.
7. Qudratova, S., & Akramova, F. (2023). MANIFESTATION OF THE CONCEPT OF “SPIRITUAL UPBRINGING” IN THE MODERN LIFE OF THE WEST. *Talqin Va Tadqiqotlar*, 1(18). Извлечено От
8. [Http://Talqinvatadqiqotlar.Uz/Index.Php/Tvt/Article/View/28](http://Talqinvatadqiqotlar.Uz/Index.Php/Tvt/Article/View/28)
9. Qudratova Sitara Olimovna. (2022). INTERPRETATION OF SPIRITUALITY IN CLASSICAL LITERATURE. *Web Of Scientist: International Scientific Research Journal*, 3(1), 17–22. <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/SEHM4>
10. Qudratova Sitara Olimovna. (2023). SARAH ORN E JEWET, M.E WILKINS FREEMAN THE AMERICAN STORY WRITERS OF XX CENTURY. *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE & INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH* ISSN: 2277-3630 Impact Factor: 7.429, 12(05), 89–91. Retrieved From
11. <https://www.gejournal.net/index.php/IJSSIR/article/view/1767>
12. <http://gejournal.net/index.php/IJSSIR/article/view/1767>
13. Qudratova Sitara Olimovna. (2025). Regional Elements In “A Worn Path By Eudora” Welty. *EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF INNOVATION IN NONFORMAL EDUCATION*, 5(5), 223–225. Retrieved From
14. <https://inovatus.es/index.php/Ejine/article/view/5767>

