



## SIMILARITIES BETWEEN DREISER AND BALZAC'S CREATIVE FORMULATION

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### Abstract

This article discusses the similarities between Dreiser's and Balzac's creative formula, the writer's way of life, and his creative style. In addition, the harmony and similarities between Dreiser's and Balzac's works are discussed.

**Keywords.** Trilogy, detail, character, tragedy, potential, naturalism, metropolis

Dreiser's journalistic work helped him to see society from all sides, and this experience played a decisive role in the formation of the writer's creative style: "Dreiser had a keen eye for detail" ("a keen eye for detail" [210, p. 20]), "he tried to understand all the sights and sounds of the city" ("trying to catch the sights and the sounds of the city" [210, p. 20]); "The years of working in the newspaper left a deep mark on the life of the future writer" [152, p. 23], "a wide picture of the life of the American society opened before him, he became a witness of many human tragedies and tried to know the reasons that caused them" [152, p. 23].

The protagonists of Dreiser's novels were men, women, and objects according to the formulas introduced by Balzac. In "Trilogy of Desires" there was a strong figure of Frank Cowperwood, who did great financial work in the world of men, in the commercial world. Frank was described with heroic character traits, "he gave strength and courage to his father, encouraged and did good to his brothers, was the hope of his children, the support of his wife, the eldest and pride of the Cowperwood family" [13, p. 253]. There were three passions for him - passion for power, women and art [127, p. 357].

As in the case of Balzac, Dreiser's excessive "realism" in his works was met with a negative reaction from critics. The American novelist was declared "a liar, an immoral writer, a liar of youth" [182, p. 8]. A rabid persecution was launched against him, his novels received hostile reviews. What was described by the writer greatly surprised the society, the in-depth analysis of the American society allowed to give a detailed pace of its behind-the-scenes aspects. Critics accused Dreiser of excessive naturalism [142, p. 101].



In her book "Life with Dreiser" [200], Ellen Dreiser described one of her husband's most prominent opponents, Stuart P. Quoted Sherman's opinion, and he called Dreiser's books "immoral, vulgar, amoral" and assured that "they are the best in the literary trend" [200, p. 26]. He called the writer himself a "descendant of Satan" and destroyed him "just as Luther destroyed the Catholic Church in his time" [200, p. 26]. Ya. N. Zasursky proposed to consider the "Trilogy of Desires" as a "historical genre work" with "a clear description of the details of the hero" and the author himself as a "historical historian" [152, p. 97]. Dreiser himself, as if he gave an illusion to Balzac's phrase about the roles of society and, accordingly, made the writer a historian and a secretary: "No one creates tragedies - life creates them. Writers only describe them" [200, p. 25].

Another element common to the works of Balzac and Dreiser should be noted. This is the type of hero who makes his way to success with all his might. The creation of characters in Balzac was associated with the spirit of the time, born with two revolutions, when a clear contrast between poverty and wealth appeared, when the power of money and things was placed above the person, his inner world. Despite everything, there are heroes who strive to open a way to the top for themselves without considering the rules of etiquette. In "Father Gorio", in one of his conversations with Rastyniak on the topic of contemporary society from the moral point of view, Mr. Vautrin is embodied in the eyes of the readers. According to him, "an honest person is an enemy to everyone" [34 p. 111], therefore, surrounded by treacherous, hypocritical, jealous people who "put themselves above the law", always "like a nuclear weapon or a pestilence" to fulfill their wishes [34 p. 111] should be affected. The theme of lost illusions in Dreiser's Desire Trilogy is related to the main character, Frank Cowperwood, who pursues fame and fortune throughout his life, but neither brings him true joy.

Its inevitable growth of gulf between rich and poor; and according to the features of American life in the period characterized by the rapid growth of monopoly, which provoked the entire American national character and the national idea of the "American dream", such types turned out to be close to Dreiser. However, on the path to success, Balzac and Dreiser's characters lose confidence in themselves and their personal desires, and despair sets in. The theme of lost illusions in Balzac is reflected in the novel of the same name ("Lost illusions", 1837 [32]) as an example of the fates of Lucien and Chardon. A talented poet who dreams of creating great works, on the advice of his mentors, comes to Paris, where he cannot stand the struggle with the greedy, greedy, hypocritical representatives of bourgeois society, as a result of which Lucien loses his confidence and the hope of realizing his dream of a bright literary



future. His friend, the hardworking and talented David Seshar, also loses his illusions without being able to realize his ideas about perfecting paper production. Both heroes were not able to fight against the strict laws, betrayal and unlimited power of money. Also, Balzac's and Dreiser's novels combined a special interest in the study of the city's influence on their characters' behavior and their emotional states. It was Balzac's description of the life of Paris that left an indelible mark on Dreiser and was reflected in his works ("The reading that did affect him... was Balzac, who, in his massive fictions about the life of Paris, gave Dreiser a new sense of the cities" [122 pp. 1879]).

In Balzac's novels, Paris is a city where luxury and poverty are juxtaposed, and at the same time, it was a battleground for fame and success. The city was shown as two-story, on the one hand, it had a "ceremonial facade" of the building of bourgeois civilization, and on the other hand, it had "dark, hidden corners" inhabited by the so-called "scum of society" [234 p. 163]. Therefore, the people living in Paris are divided into ambitious, self-confident, goal-oriented individuals and liars, traitors, dishonorable fools who play the roles defined by the space they live in. The city was able to influence people's mood. ("even the most careless person falls here and becomes a sad person" [34 p. 34]), to change the direction of thoughts ("Neuve-Sainte-Genevieve street ... to serve as a mask for this phrase, which requires dark colors and serious thoughts was the most worthy" [34 p. 34]), to oppression ("Shacks on the outskirts of the city of Paris...wretched people... In the capital, the poverty was terrible..." [34 p. 315]).

Theodore Dreiser also continued the theme of urban population growth in his works. In each of his novels, the main character, a man or a woman, has left their small hometown to reach megalopolises like Chicago, New York, and London in search of happiness, fame, and a lot of money. For example, Caroline Meeber in "Sister Carrie" and Jenny Gerhardt try to build their lives in Chicago in the novel of the same name, Clyde Griffiths in "American Tragedy" moves to New York on the winning offer of his uncle, where his story of success and chaos unfolds. But Frank Cowperwood, the main character of the novel "Trilogy of Desires", managed to make the brightest career. In his lifetime, this financial magnate had conquered such big cities as Philadelphia, Chicago and London, and in each city he was waiting for great events that corresponded to the mood of the place. In conservative, gloomy Philadelphia, Frank did not feel famous, lucky or happy enough, and always felt that change was needed; In the progressive, inspiring Chicago, where the untiring's career was at the height of its possibilities and used its potential to the maximum, surrounded by the quiet,



soothing nature of London, the hero realized the true value of life and achieved his own peace.

Thus, a comparative analysis of the work of two writers by researchers and scientists reveals a number of similarities. His follower Dreiser skillfully used the principles followed by Balzac in creating the "Human Comedy". Here, where nature has subjugated every living thing to its laws, and where there is a realistic depiction of existence bordering on naturalism, human society is likened to the animal kingdom. It should be noted separately that, in addition, both authors put the main emphasis on the description of three mandatory elements - "men, women and things".

Their writings depict people, their lifestyles, problems, and disagreements with such honesty that the resulting criticism provoked a firestorm of criticism. Both authors, before writing their work, conducted a thorough analysis of a separate social stratum in order to make the life situations and problems described in the novel as reliable as possible. For Daryzer and Balzac, along with the characters, the image of the cities, whose environment determined their character and mood, and at the same time decided their fate, was an important element of the story.

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