

PHENOMENOLOGICAL THEORY AND ITS PLACE IN LITERARY STUDIES

Begmatova Sokhiba Mustafoyevna

*Associate professor (PhD) of
Uzbekistan State World Languages University*

E-mail: s.begmatova@uzswlu.uz

Abstract: This article explores phenomenological theory and its role in literary studies as a method for analyzing human experience, perception, and consciousness. Phenomenology, founded by Edmund Husserl, emphasizes concepts such as intentionality and epoch, which focus on how phenomena appear in human consciousness. The study also considers the contributions of Martin Heidegger, who linked phenomenology with questions of human existence through the concept of being-in-the-world, as well as the interpretations of David Farrell Krell on time and finitude. In addition, the ideas of Maurice Merleau-Ponty regarding perception and embodied experience are discussed. The article argues that the phenomenological approach is an effective methodological tool for literary analysis, particularly in studying the subjective experience of characters in modern dystopian novels and interpreting the image of children as a reflection of the initial perception of the world and the formation of human consciousness.

Keywords: Phenomenology, literary studies, intentionality, human experience, perception, dystopian literature, child image, existence.

Phenomenology is one of the important scientific methods in literary studies for studying human experience, perception, and existence. This method is a philosophical direction aimed at studying the phenomena that appear in the human mind - that is, how phenomena are perceived and how they acquire meaning. Edmund Husserl is recognized as the founder of this theory in science. According to him, any knowledge is formed through experiences that appear in the human mind, and therefore, in the process of analyzing phenomena, how they appear in the mind and how they are perceived is of great importance.

One of the central concepts of Husserl's phenomenology is the principle of "intentionality" - that is, the principle that consciousness is always directed towards something. (Husserl, 1962, p. 61) According to this concept, any experience in the human mind is directed towards a specific object. Therefore, in the process of phenomenological analysis, it is not the object itself that is important, but how it is manifested in the human mind. Husserl also proposes the method of "epoch" (i.e., the temporary setting aside of everyday representations) in phenomenological research. (Husserl, 1962, p. 88) This method allows the researcher to understand the essence of the phenomenon, free from external social or ideological interpretations.

Phenomenology later merged with the philosophy of existence and was directed towards the study of issues related to human existence in the world and its experience. Martin Heidegger played an important role in the development of this direction. Heidegger, connecting phenomenology with ontological problems, interprets man as a "being existing in the world". (Heidegger, 1962, p. 82). According to him, human existence is formed in close contact with the external environment, and therefore the study of human experience helps to understand the forms of his existence. This approach of the scientist serves as an important methodological basis for analyzing the mental state of the characters in the literary text, their relationship with the world and the experience of existence.

Another philosopher, David Farrell Creel, presents a profound philosophical approach to phenomenology. Analyzing Martin Heidegger's phenomenological ontology through concepts such as human existence (Dasein) and time, truthfulness, and finiteness, the scholar sees phenomenology not only as a means of analyzing consciousness, but also as an attempt to

explain human existence through “living in time”. This draws attention to the role of finitude and time in human experience in phenomenological analysis. In David Creel’s work, the issues of time and existence are seen as interconnected, and human life is an ontological experience of a limited time, and therefore phenomenology is directly related to the perception of real existence and death. Therefore, Creel’s approach directs phenomenological analysis not only to the subjective perception of being, but also to the study of how a person perceives his existence in time, in limited conditions. Krell interprets phenomenology as the human experience of existence within time—which provides a basis for using phenomenology in a literary text to reflect the character's internal perception of time and limited existence.

Another important stage in the development of phenomenology is associated with the work of Maurice Merleau-Ponty. He connects phenomenology with human perception and physical experience, explaining the process of human cognition of the world more through sensation and perception. According to Merleau-Ponty, a person perceives the world not only through intellectual activity, but also through sensation and the experience of his own body. This idea is of great importance in the analysis of the individual experience and perception of characters in literary studies. The phenomenological approach in literary studies allows us to interpret a work of art as an expression of human experience and consciousness. According to this method, a literary work is considered as an aesthetic phenomenon that expresses the inner experience, perception and sense of being of the author or characters. Therefore, phenomenological analysis is aimed at studying the mental state of literary characters, how they perceive the world, and how this perception is reflected in the literary text.

The phenomenological approach in literary studies allows us to interpret a work of art as an expression of human experience and consciousness. According to this method, a literary work is considered an aesthetic phenomenon that expresses the inner experience, perception, and sense of being of the author or characters. Therefore, phenomenological analysis focuses on studying the mental state of literary characters, how they perceive the world, and how this perception is reflected in the literary text. In literary studies, the phenomenological method is especially effective in analyzing the subjective experience of the character. Because a literary text usually reveals various aspects of human existence through the characters' inner experiences, memories, fears, or dreams. In this regard, phenomenology is an important methodological tool that allows us to study the inner world of a person in a literary text.

The phenomenological approach is important in the analysis of modern dystopian novels. In dystopian works, the experience of heroes is usually formed in conditions of control, violence and social pressure. In such a situation, the inner perception, fear, hope and sense of existence of the heroes acquire important artistic content. Therefore, the phenomenological method helps to reveal the complexity of the human experience described in the dystopian text.

It is worth mentioning that phenomenology is an effective method in the analysis of the image of children. Because childhood is the stage of human life when the first perception of the world occurs, in which the process of the formation of experience and consciousness is clearly manifested. From a phenomenological point of view, the image of children is interpreted as an artistic phenomenon that represents the initial experience of human existence. Therefore, studying the image of children in modern dystopian novels based on a phenomenological approach allows for a deeper understanding of the problems of humanity, freedom and identity.

In conclusion, it can be said that phenomenology, as a philosophical method aimed at studying human experience and perception, serves as an important theoretical foundation in literary studies. This method allows us to analyze the human existence depicted in a literary text, the subjective experience of the characters, and their relationship with the world. Especially in

works of the dystopian genre, the phenomenological approach is an effective methodological tool for revealing the mental state of the characters and the experience of existence in more depth.

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