

SATIRE IN GULLIVER'S TRAVELS BY JONATHAN SWIFT

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**Abstract.** In the article "Satire in Gulliver's Travels," the author explores the use of satire in Jonathan Swift's classic work. Through a detailed analysis of Swift's text, the author highlights how satire is employed to critique and satirize various aspects of society, politics, and human nature.

**Key words:** - Satire, Gulliver's Travels, Jonathan Swift, Political commentary, Social criticism, Lilliputians, Brobdingnagians, Houyhnhnms, Yahoos, Travel narrative.

**Izoh:** "Gulliverning sayohatlarida satira" maqolasida muallif Jonatan Sviftning klassik asarida satira qo'llanilishini o'rganadi. Muallif Svift matnini batafsil tahlil qilish orqali jamiyat, siyosat va inson tabiatining turli tomonlarini tanqid qilish va satiralashtirish uchun satira qanday qo'llanilishini ta'kidlaydi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Satira, Gulliverning sayohatlari, Jonatan Svift, Siyosiy sharh, Ijtimoiy tanqid, Lilliputlar, Brobdingnaglar, Houyhnhnms, Yahoos, Sayohat hikoyasi.

**Аннотация:** В статье «Сатира в путешествиях Гулливера» автор исследует использование сатиры в классическом творчестве Джонатана Свифта. Путем детального анализа текста Свифта автор показывает, как сатира используется для критики и высмеивания различных аспектов общества, политики и человеческой природы.

**Ключевые слова:** Сатира, Путешествия Гулливера, Джонатан Свифт, Политические комментарии, Социальная критика, Лилипуты, Бробдингаги, Гуигнгнымы, Йеху, Рассказы о путешествиях

Gulliver's Travels, written by Jonathan Swift, is a classic work of satire that has fascinated readers for centuries. Through the adventures of Lemuel Gulliver in various fantastical lands, Swift uses humor and wit to critique human nature, society, and politics. The novel's satirical elements are both entertaining and thought-provoking, making it a timeless piece of literature that continues to be studied and appreciated today. In this article, we will explore the use of satire in Gulliver's Travels and how Swift cleverly employs this literary device to convey his critical commentary on the world around him.

Satire was a popular form of expression during Jonathan Swift's period in the 18th century. The goal of satire is to use humor, irony, or sarcasm to criticize or mock individuals, institutions, or society as a whole. Satire often aims to expose and highlight flaws, inconsistencies, or absurdities in order to provoke thought and bring about social change. By using wit and cleverness, satire can challenge norms and challenge the status quo in a way that is both entertaining and thought-provoking. Swift was known for his satirical works, such as "Gulliver's Travels" and "A Modest Proposal," in which he used humor and irony to criticize and mock the political, social, and cultural issues of his time. Gulliver's Travels is a work of unparalleled wit and satire, serving as a scathing critique of 18th-century society and politics.<sup>38</sup> Satire was an effective tool for Swift to critique the corruption and hypocrisy of the British government, the mistreatment of Irish people by the English, and other societal injustices. By using satire, Swift was able to address serious topics in a comedic and engaging way, allowing readers to reflect on these issues while being entertained. Jonathan Swift's satirical masterpiece, Gulliver's Travels, is a work that continues to captivate readers with its clever and thought-provoking commentary on society and human nature. Written in the early 18th century, this novel follows the adventures of Lemuel Gulliver as he travels to various fantastical lands, each one a satirical representation of different aspects of society. "Swift's use of allegory and irony in Gulliver's Travels reveals his deep-seated skepticism towards human nature and the institutions that govern it".<sup>39</sup> One of the key elements of satire in Gulliver's Travels is Swift's use of exaggeration and absurdity to highlight the flaws and absurdities of human behavior. Through Gulliver's encounters with the Lilliputians, Brobdingnagians, Laputans, and Houyhnhnms, Swift satirizes various aspects of politics, religion, science, and morality. Swift's satire in Gulliver's Travels extends beyond individual characters or societies to encompass broader themes such as colonialism, imperialism, and human arrogance. Through Gulliver's interactions with different cultures and civilizations, Swift critiques the destructive impact of European expansionism and highlights the dangers of cultural superiority. Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels remains a timeless work of satire that challenges readers to reflect on their own beliefs and values. Through its clever humor, sharp wit, and incisive social commentary, this novel continues to resonate with audiences today as a powerful critique of human nature and society. For example, "A wise man should have money in his head, but not in his heart. May you live all the days of your life. Laws are like cobwebs, which may catch small flies, but let wasps and hornets break through. Every man desires to live long, but no man wishes to be old" <sup>40</sup>. "Gulliver's Travels" is filled with satire, using humor and exaggeration to critique various aspects of society and human nature. Here are some examples of satire in the novel:

1. Lilliput: In the first part of the book, Gulliver visits the land of Lilliput, where the inhabitants are only six inches tall. Swift uses their ridiculous customs and political intrigues to satirize the political landscape of his own time, particularly the petty conflicts among European nations.

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<sup>38</sup> Swift, Jonathan. Gulliver's Travels. Oxford World's Classics, 2005.

<sup>39</sup> Orwell, George. "Jonathan Swift: The Master of Satire." Essays on Literature and Politics, 1947.

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/jonathan-swift-quotes>

2. Brobdingnag: In this part of the book, Gulliver encounters a race of giants who are around 60 feet tall. Swift uses this setting to satirize human beings as seen from an outsider's perspective, highlighting their flaws and weaknesses when viewed on a larger scale.

3. Laputa: The floating island of Laputa is home to a society of intellectuals who are so absorbed in their abstract theories that they neglect practical matters. This is a satirical commentary on the disconnect between academia and reality.

4. Houyhnhnms: In the final part of the book, Gulliver encounters a race of intelligent horses known as Houyhnhnms, who live in harmony and reason without any flaws or vices. By contrasting them with the savage and irrational Yahoos (humans), Swift satirizes humanity's capacity for cruelty and folly.

In conclusion, "Swift's Gulliver's Travels is a work of profound moral indignation, challenging readers to reflect on the darker aspects of human nature and the consequences of unchecked power".<sup>41</sup> Through the lens of the fantastical travels of Lemuel Gulliver, Swift exposes the flaws and absurdities of human nature, politics, science, and society. By employing humor, irony, and exaggeration, Swift effectively prompts readers to reflect on their own beliefs and behaviors. The enduring relevance of Gulliver's Travels as a satirical masterpiece highlights the timeless nature of Swift's commentary on human folly and serves as a reminder for us to critically examine the world around us.

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<sup>41</sup> Eliot, T.S. "The Savage Satire of Gulliver's Travels." Selected Essays, 1932.