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## CULTURAL-BOUND IDIOMS IN THE NOVEL «OF MICE AND MEN» BY JOHN STEINBECK

**Аннотация:** Статья посвящена исследованию эмоционально-окрашенных идиом в произведении Джона Стейнбека «Мыши и Люди». Язык произведения прост и в то же время неповторим. Статья направлена на раскрытие уникальности и оригинальности языка, используемого персонажами. Цель работы не только ознакомить читателей с одним из выдающихся произведений Джона Стейнбека, но и улучшить языковые навыки речи и обогатить их вокабуляр.

**Ключевые слова:** студент, художественная значимость идиом, лингвистика, язык, художественное произведение, диалект.

### **Cultural-bound idioms in the novel «Of Mice and Men» by John Steinbeck**

**Abstract:** The article is devoted to investigation of the “cultural-bound” idioms specific to Salinas Valley in California in the novel “Of Mice and Men” by John Steinbeck. The language in the novel is simple but compelling. The article is aimed at revealing uniqueness and originality of the idioms used by the characters. The task of this work is to introduce the readers with one of the realistic and imaginative writings as well as to supply the students with the idioms, to perfect their speech habits on the one hand and enrich

the vocabulary on the other.

**Key-words:** student, literary value of the idioms, linguistics, language, literary writing, dialect.

Language is considered to be social and psychological by nature. It is closely connected with the people who create and use it. Every language grows and develops together with the development of the society.

With the help of linguistic means the imaginative writer appeals to the reader, expresses and conveys his thoughts and feelings. The choice and arrangement of appropriate words and sentence patterns. The use of various expressive means, the choice and arrangement of appropriate words and sentence patterns determine the effect which the literary production will have on the reader.

A work of fiction is a creation of a high-skilled, well-trained professional, for whom his job is his ruling passion.

«Of Mice and Men» is a bright example of literary work famous for humour and a keen social perception. In the novel «Of Mice and Men» John Steinbeck touches upon the themes of loyalty, friendship and realization of dreams. It is a story about George and Lanny. George is a small wry man; Lanny is a strong but a

gentle man with a mind of a child. The characters in the book «Of Mice and Men» are rural workers. They are not educated. They use the language that is far from Standard American English. This kind of language is called vernacular dialect. John Steinbeck is the master of the language. Using vernacular dialect he creates a warm and homely atmosphere. The use of the verbs underlines the specific features of the language in the novel. The sentences used by the characters are usually short and rich in verbs.

The subject-matter of this work is understanding and observation of the so-called figurative expressions often described as idioms. They play a very important part in human communication; they appeal to the heart and mind of man, to the reader's emotions, his literary and cultural associations.

According to V. Komissarov idioms' figurative meaning, its literal sense, its emotive character, stylistic register, national colouring are the very aspects of idiom's meaning that every writer takes into consideration. Idioms are expressions of each culture something specific to a tiny area or city. In the novel «Of Mice and Men» by John Steinbeck the idioms are specific to Salinas Valley in California.

The literary value of the

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idioms used by John Steinbeck is indisputable. The language in «Of Mice and Men» is rich in idioms, colloquial words and expressions. As it was mentioned above the writer could show in his novel the typical features of the language, culture of a lower-status group of people, their dialect and non-standard forms of the language they speak. It helps the writer not to lose a great deal of realism, describing ordinary people and their everyday life.

The use of idioms characterizes a richness and authenticity of the novel:

Blow their stake – to lose or spend all their money

Bucks – dollars

Drink hearty – to spend a good time

Flat bust – to be ruined

Get the eye – not to be faithful to a husband, to look around at other men

Hoosegow – jail

In hot water – to be in trouble

Jungle-up – to camp out for the evening in the company

Jail bait – a girl below the legal age

Looloo – a sexy woman

Pants is full of ants – to have «ants in one's pants» is to be nervous and restless

Picking scraps – to provoke

fight or quarrels

Plug oneself up – to advertise or display oneself

Roll up a stake – to save money

Shove out of here – to get out of here

Sore as hell – extremely angry

Strung on a tree – to be hanged, to be punished

Set you back – to cost

Take the rap – to get into trouble

Went with shows – to entertain

So, the aim of this work is to introduce the readers with one of the realistic and imaginative writings as well as to supply the students with the idioms enabling them to carry on a conversation in good idiomatic English, to perfect the speech habits on the one hand and enrich the vocabulary on the other.

«Of Mice and Men» is a short story, only a little more than hundred pages. The author was awarded the Nobel-Prize in 1962 and wrote a considerable number of novels and short stories. John Steinbeck is one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century and his novel can be found among Top 10 challenged books in 1991.

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