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**SOCIAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF L.N. TOLSTOY'S NOVEL  
"ANNA KARENINA"**

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**ABOUT ARTICLE**

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**Abstract:** Leo Tolstoy's novel "Anna Karenina" (1873-1877) is one of the most significant world literatures of the XIX century. It touches upon the eternal problems of human life: love and family, freedom and duty, social morality, and personal happiness. Tolstoy creates a multifaceted canvas of Russian life at that time, representing different strata of society through the fate of the characters and their internal conflicts. The article considers the main themes and problems of Leo Tolstoy's novel "Anna Karenina", such as the clash of personality and society, the problem of love and family, as well as the moral quest of the characters. It analyses the novel's poetics, the ways of revealing the characters' inner feelings, and the methods of Tolstoy's psychology.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Tolstoy's novel explores the contradictions of late nineteenth-century Russian society, which was on the cusp between traditional patriarchy and the emerging ideas of modernization. Through the fates of the main characters - Anna Karenina, Alexei Vronsky, Konstantin Levin, and others - the author raises the themes:

1. The position of women in society. Anna Karenina symbolizes the tragedy of a woman who strives for personal happiness but faces the condemnation of society. Her passion and desire for freedom come into conflict with social norms. The condemnation of Anna as a 'fallen' woman contrasts with the tacit acceptance of similar behavior by men (e.g. Vronsky).

2. The crisis of aristocracy and feudalism. Tolstoy's characters belong to different social groups: Anna and Karenin are representatives of the aristocracy, and Levin is a landowner-progressivist trying to reform the economy. Through their life collisions, Tolstoy criticizes the emptiness of the nobility and searches for meaning in the work of the land and simple human values.

3. Family and marriage. The novel presents various models of family relationships: the unhappy marriage of Anna and Karenin, the free love of Anna and Vronsky, and the harmonious relationship of Levin and Kiti. The author shows that happiness is possible only with spiritual intimacy and mutual understanding.

### **The psychologism and philosophy of the novel**

One of the outstanding aspects of "Anna Karenina" is the deep psychologism and philosophical reflections of the characters.

- - The image of Anna Karenina. Anna embodies the inner conflict between feeling and reason. Her love for Vronsky becomes not only a source of happiness but also a destructive passion that destroys her life. The psychological portraits of Anna demonstrate the change in her state: from confidence and love to despair and self-destruction.
- - The figure of Konstantin Levin. Levin is the alter ego of Tolstoy himself. His search for the meaning of life, his reflections on faith, labor and family values represent the philosophical basis of the novel. Levin's happiness, unlike Anna's tragedy, lies in the simplicity and acceptance of life as it is.
- - Motives of freedom and destiny. Anna strives for freedom from social fetters, but this freedom turns out to be a tragedy for her. Tolstoy shows the irresolvable conflict between personal will and social obligations.

### **The problem of love and marriage**

In the novel, Tolstoy contrasts two types of relationships: true love and social conventions. The story of Anna and Vronsky demonstrates the conflict between personal happiness and social morality. Anna refuses to marry Karenin, which is an empty formality, but her feelings for Vronsky do not bring her the happiness she expected. Tolstoy shows that love, devoid of a moral beginning, leads to the destruction of personality.

The family line of Levin and Kiti, on the contrary, becomes a counterpoint to Anna's story. Their relationship is built on mutual respect, spiritual unity and sincerity. Levin realizes that true happiness in marriage is based on simple and natural values.

Levin, one of Tolstoy's autobiographical incarnations, experiences a deep spiritual crisis. In his search for the meaning of life, he turns to labor, family, and then to faith. Levin comes to realize that happiness lies in a simple, 'righteous' life, consistent with moral laws.

Thus, Tolstoy argues that only labor and moral purity lead man to harmony with the world and himself.

Anna Karenina is the central character of the novel, whose image is filled with deep psychology and tragedy. Her love for Vronsky becomes a protest against conventions, but at the same time leads her to self-destruction. Tolstoy shows that Anna is not only a victim of society but also of her inner discord. Her tragedy lies in her inability to find harmony between her feelings and morality.

The finale of the novel, where Anna commits suicide, emphasizes the inevitability of her fate in the context of social and personal conflict.

### **Symbolism and artistic features**

- - The symbolism of the train. The image of the train permeates the novel as a symbol of fate and the inexorable passage of time. Anna meets Vronsky at the railway station, anticipating trouble, and her life ends in tragedy under the wheels of the train.
- - Nature as a reflection of the state of mind. In the novel, nature often serves as a metaphor to describe the emotions and inner world of the characters. For example, Levin's harvesting scene symbolizes harmony and order in his life.
- - Realism and composition. Tolstoy uses realistic details to create a three-dimensional and believable depiction of reality. The composition of the novel consists of two parallel lines: Anna's tragic story and Levin's happy life, which allows the author to show different aspects of human existence.

### **CONCLUSION**

"Anna Karenina" by Leo Tolstoy remains a relevant work, touching on themes significant for all times. Social criticism, deep psychology, philosophical search for the meaning of life and a unique artistic form make the novel one of the masterpieces of world literature. Anna Karenina is a tragic heroine whose rebellion against convention turns to ruin, while Levin embodies the path of reconciliation and inner

harmony. Through these opposing destinies, Tolstoy offers a reflection on the nature of happiness, morality, and the true values of life. The combination of personal drama and global issues makes the novel relevant to this day, and its characters are alive and close to the reader. At the center of the work is an eternal theme: the human desire for happiness and the search for harmony in a world full of contradictions.

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