



**EOC**  
EUROASIAN  
ONLINE  
CONFERENCES

# ENGLAND CONFERENCE

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES AND  
EDUCATION**



Google Scholar

zenodo

OpenAIRE

doi digital object  
identifier

eoconf.com - from 2024



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES AND EDUCATION:** a collection scientific works of the International scientific conference – London, England, 2025. Issue 4

**Languages of publication:** Uzbek, English, Russian, German, Italian, Spanish

The collection consists of scientific research of scientists, graduate students and students who took part in the International Scientific online conference «**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES AND EDUCATION**». Which took place in London , 2025.

Conference proceedings are recommended for scientists and teachers in higher education establishments. They can be used in education, including the process of post - graduate teaching, preparation for obtain bachelors' and masters' degrees. The review of all articles was accomplished by experts, materials are according to authors copyright. The authors are responsible for content, researches results and errors.





## ENGLISH LITERATURE IN THE 18TH CENTURY (ENLIGHTENMENT IN ENGLAND)

**Azizkulova Zubayda Jabbor kizi**

Student of the Department of Theory and Practice of the English Language  
Chirchik State Pedagogical University [zubaydaazizkulova@gmail.com](mailto:zubaydaazizkulova@gmail.com)

**Khamitov Eldorbek E.**

Scientific Advisor, a senior teacher, Chirchik State Pedagogical University  
[xamitov.e@cspu.uz](mailto:xamitov.e@cspu.uz), [khamitovledorbek@gmail.com](mailto:khamitovledorbek@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** The eighteenth century in England, known as the Age of Enlightenment, represents a period of intellectual, cultural, and literary transformation. Enlightenment thought emphasized reason, progress, and the perfectibility of man, fostering a society guided by knowledge, science, and rational inquiry. English literature of this period reflects these ideals, combining classical influences with a focus on middle-class values, social morality, and human experience. This paper investigates the characteristics of eighteenth-century English literature, analyzing major genres, literary trends, and notable authors, including Alexander Pope, Daniel Defoe, Samuel Richardson, Henry Fielding, and Richard Brinsley Sheridan. Emphasis is placed on the interplay between literature and philosophical thought, the rise of the novel, the role of satire, sentimentalism, and the development of periodical essays as instruments of social instruction and public engagement. The study highlights the evolution of literary forms, themes, and social purpose in a period when England emerged as a political, economic, and intellectual leader in Europe.

**Introduction:** The eighteenth century in England, often called the Age of Enlightenment or the Age of Reason, was a period marked by intellectual rigor, social reform, and literary innovation. Philosophical principles—such as the inevitability of progress, the efficacy of reason, and the pursuit of knowledge—shaped literature, reflecting the aspirations and values of the growing middle class. Writers sought to educate, moralize, and entertain simultaneously, emphasizing social harmony, human experience, and the critique of vice and ignorance. Literature was influenced by classical models, the elegance of style, and a desire for clarity, order, and moderation. Genres such as essays, novels, and periodicals became prominent, while drama, poetry, and satire evolved to reflect contemporary philosophical and social ideas. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of eighteenth-century English literature, examining major trends, genres, and authors, and exploring the links between literary production and Enlightenment thought.





**Keywords:** English literature, Enlightenment, 18th century, Age of Reason, Augustan Age, novel, satire, sentimentalism, periodical essay, middle class, Alexander Pope, Daniel Defoe.

**Methods:** This study employs a qualitative methodology, combining literary analysis, historical contextualization, and comparative study. Primary sources include novels, essays, poems, and periodicals by key eighteenth-century authors such as Pope, Defoe, Swift, Fielding, Richardson, Goldsmith, and Sheridan. Secondary sources comprise scholarly articles, historical studies, and critical monographs on the English Enlightenment and literary history. Analytical focus is placed on literary themes, stylistic features, philosophical influences, social commentary, and the representation of human experience. The research highlights interactions between literature and society, tracing the impact of Enlightenment ideals on narrative techniques, genre development, and readership engagement. The period is examined in three stages: early Enlightenment (1688–1730s), mature Enlightenment (1740s–1750s), and late Enlightenment (1760s–1790s), allowing for systematic exploration of literary trends over the century.

**Results:** The analysis identifies several defining characteristics of eighteenth-century English literature:

1. **Rise of the Novel:** The novel emerged as the dominant literary form, reflecting middle-class concerns, human experience, and moral instruction. Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* (1719) exemplifies early realism, emphasizing individual effort, optimism, and practical knowledge. Samuel Richardson and Henry Fielding further developed the social novel, focusing on morality, human psychology, and societal critique.
2. **Satire and Moral Commentary:** Satire was a prominent literary tool, used to critique social vice and political folly. Alexander Pope's *The Rape of the Lock* and *The Dunciad* combine wit, classical form, and moral observation. Satire served to entertain and instruct, aligning with Enlightenment values of reason and social improvement.
3. **Periodical Essays:** Joseph Addison and Richard Steele pioneered the periodical essay with publications like *The Tatler* (1709) and *The Spectator* (1711). These works disseminated ideas about manners, morality, and social reform to a middle-class readership, fostering public discourse and literary engagement.
4. **Sentimentalism and Emotional Realism:** Late eighteenth-century literature saw the rise of sentimentalism, emphasizing empathy, moral sensibility, and emotional experience. Authors such as Oliver Goldsmith and Laurence Sterne explored human feelings in novels and drama, often blending humor with moral reflection.





5. Drama: Eighteenth-century drama combined Restoration traditions with emerging middle-class values. Sentimental tragedies and comedies, including Sheridan's *The School for Scandal* and Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer*, balanced moral instruction with entertainment. The Licensing Act of 1737 constrained theatrical freedom, influencing themes and limiting radical innovation.
6. Classical Influence and the Augustan Age: Writers drew inspiration from classical antiquity, emphasizing reason, order, and proportion. The English Augustan Age mirrored Roman literary ideals under Augustus, seeking balance and elegance in poetry and prose. Alexander Pope exemplifies this classical style, blending aesthetic perfection with philosophical reflection.
7. Focus on the Middle Class and Social Instruction: Literature increasingly represented ordinary people rather than nobility. Authors addressed issues of education, morality, and social improvement, reflecting Enlightenment ideals that knowledge and reason could transform society. Defoe's *The Education of Women* illustrates advocacy for educational reform and gender equality.

**Discussion:** Eighteenth-century English literature reflects the intellectual and social currents of the Enlightenment. The emphasis on reason, education, and moral improvement shaped both content and form, creating literature that was accessible, instructive, and engaging. Novels, essays, and periodicals bridged the gap between authors and a literate middle-class audience, fostering public discussion and social critique. Satire, sentimentalism, and realistic fiction illustrate the dynamic tension between emotional sensibility and rational thought. Classical influence reinforced structural discipline, while innovation in prose and drama responded to evolving social realities. Collectively, the literature of this period exemplifies a synthesis of philosophical ideas, social consciousness, and artistic expression.

**Conclusion:** Eighteenth-century English literature, shaped by Enlightenment thought, demonstrates the fusion of reason, moral instruction, and artistic creativity. The period saw the rise of the novel, the flourishing of satire, and the development of periodical literature aimed at educating and entertaining the middle class. Writers like Alexander Pope, Daniel Defoe, and Richard Brinsley Sheridan exemplify the diversity and depth of this era. Literature served as a vehicle for social critique, moral reflection, and the dissemination of knowledge, reflecting the ideals of progress, rationality, and human perfectibility. The legacy of eighteenth-century English literature lies in its enduring influence on narrative form, genre development, and the engagement of literature with social and philosophical thought.

**References:**





1. Pope, A. (1712). *The Rape of the Lock*. London. Available online: Project Gutenberg edition. <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/9800/9800-h/9800-h.htm> (Project Gutenberg)
2. Defoe, D. (1719). *The Life and Strange Surprizing Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*. London. Available online: Project Gutenberg eBook. <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/70841> (Project Gutenberg)
3. Richardson, S. (1740). *Pamela; or, Virtue Rewarded*. London. Available online: Project Gutenberg eBook. <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/6124> (Project Gutenberg)
4. Fielding, H. (1749). *The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling*. London. Available online: Project Gutenberg eBook. <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/6593> (Project Gutenberg)
5. Sheridan, R. B. (1775). *The Rivals*. London.
6. Goldsmith, O. (1773). *She Stoops to Conquer*. London. Available online: Project Gutenberg edition. <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/383> (Project Gutenberg)
7. Steele, R., & Addison, J. (1711). *The Spectator*. London.
8. Smollett, T. (1751). *The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle*. London.

