

## Artistic Idea and Aesthetic Expression in Chekhov's Story "Chameleon"

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**Abstract:** *This article provides a scientific and theoretical analysis of the issue of artistic idea and aesthetic expression in Anton Pavlovich Chekhov's story "Chameleon".*

**Keywords:** *problem, details of everyday life, story genre, characteristic quality, position, human nature, social conditions, problem, simplicity, deep image, originality, ordinary people, complexity, etc.*

### Introduction

Anton Pavlovich Chekhov is a writer known in Russian and world literature as a master of the short story genre, whose works are distinguished by their ability to artistically convey human inner experiences, details of everyday life and social problems of his time. In his works, Chekhov reveals deep spiritual and philosophical issues through small-scale events. His stories are analyzed below.

One of the main features of Chekhov's stories is the harmony of realism and psychologism. He is a master of simple but deep depictions of life, and the events in the stories are taken from ordinary human life. Chekhov's characters are distinguished by their vitality: they are ordinary people, with their own qualities and shortcomings. For example, in the story "Chameleon", the usual aspects of life - careerism and hypocrisy - are depicted in a satirical tone. Through this story, Chekhov raises such universal problems in Russian society as the domination of the strong over the weak.

Chekhov has a unique style of revealing the drama of the lives of ordinary people. There are almost no extraordinary events in his stories; however, through the small circumstances of everyday life, he reveals a whole world of human experiences. "The story "The Man from the Village" depicts the struggle between human dreams and real-life disappointments. This story shows the contradiction between urban and rural life, as well as the injustices of life and human weakness.

The issue of human values and humanism is central in Chekhov's stories. He does not judge humanity, but rather encourages the reader to express his opinion on the lives and actions of the heroes. For example, in the story "The Black Monk", Chekhov illuminates the complexity of human spiritual suffering and creative search. This story reveals the inner world and mental struggle of a person from a philosophical perspective. In addition, Chekhov critically sheds light on the social and spiritual problems of his time. In the story "Ward No. 6", he condemns the cruelty and indifference of society through a psychiatric hospital. This story highlights topics that were extremely relevant for its time, questioning human rights and justice.

Chekhov's stories are distinguished by their simplicity and clarity. His stories are usually short, and the events develop in a short period of time. However, deep philosophical layers are hidden behind this simplicity.

The writer pays special attention to revealing the inner experiences of the characters in his stories. For example, in the story "A Man Inside", the main character Belikov is depicted, who, having run away from his own life, blindly follows the rules of society. Through the story, Chekhov shows the harmfulness of building a shell in human life - building a building for himself and adapting to society.

Chekhov's stories are also relevant for the modern reader. The issues he raises are the constant problems of humanity: loneliness, spiritual poverty, the search for justice and despair. For example, in the story "About Love" the complexity of human relationships, the tension between dreams and reality are highlighted. Through the story, Chekhov philosophically interprets the concept of love and shows it as both the greatest joy and source of pain in human life.

Among Chekhov's prose works, such stories as "Field" (1888), "A Boring Story" (1889), "Duel" (1891), "Ward 6" (1892), "My Life" (1896), "The Villager" (1897), "On the Slope" (1900) occupy a special place. In these works, Chekhov deeply analyzes the complexities of the human psyche, social inequality and injustice in society, as well as the inner experiences of a person.

Anton Chekhov's story "Chameleon" (1884) is a short but deeply meaningful satirical work. It ironically depicts human hypocrisy and lowliness in the face of powerful people. Below are the main characters in the story and their analysis.

Although Anton Chekhov's story "Chameleon" is short, it vividly depicts important social and moral problems of society. Below is a detailed analysis of certain aspects of the story.

1. Hypocrisy and Adaptability Ochyumelov's decisions: Ochyumelov's decisions constantly change depending on the development of events. When it comes to the fact that the dog is the property of the general, he protects the dog. But when the dog belongs to an ordinary person, he demands that it be punished. Through this, Chekhov ironically reveals the nature of people who strive to adapt to the powerful. Criticism of society: Through the story, Chekhov criticizes the hypocrisy in society. People flatter the powerful and belittle the weak. This behavior is shown as the root of social injustice. 2. Attitude to authority. The position of the general: Although the general does not appear in the story, his social position affects all events. Ochyumelov and others are careful with the general's property, which shows how dependent they are on the authorities. Power and fear: Ochyumelov's decisions clearly show fear and obedience to the powerful. This is especially evident in his sharp change when it is revealed that the dog is the general's property. Symbolic meaning: The attitude towards authority shows how people can fall into weakness and moral weakness in order to protect their own interests. 3. The conflict between the weak and the strong. Khryukin and the dog: Khryukin is a symbol of a weak, ordinary person who demands justice. But when his demand contradicts the interests of the strong, his voice is not heard. The dog is a symbol of the weak, whose fate depends on the views of the strong. Injustice: Chekhov shows the failure of the weak in the struggle against the strong. This reveals the roots of injustice in society. 4. Irony and grotesque: Ochyumelov's actions: Ochyumelov's frequent changes of mind are depicted grotesquely. This, on the one hand, seems funny, but on the other hand, it reveals a sad state of affairs. The absurdity of society: Through Chekhov's irony, a small incident (a dog bite) reveals the moral weakness of an entire society. This absurdity points to the larger problems of society. 5. Human dignity and self-interest: Ochyumelov's behavior: Human dignity is irrelevant to Ochyumelov; he only cares about his own interests. He treats the dog, which is the property of a general, with care, but is ready to punish the property of a commoner.

## Conclusion

Anton Chekhov's stories, combined with their brevity and simplicity, carry a huge philosophical and spiritual meaning. His stories raise important topics for all periods and cultures of humanity, prompting the reader to think and analyze. Chekhov created a new direction in fiction through realism, humanism and psychologism, making a huge contribution to the development of the short story genre. His work is an invaluable asset not only for Russian literature, but also for world literature.

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