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National, Ethnic and Social Axes of Suggestive Impact in *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie

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Abstract

The paradigm of fictive texts revealing diversity of genre characteristics includes modern action, as a type of narrative, founded on suspense as the focal point of the development of dramatic collision in a literary work. The methodological basis of suspense has been worked out and researched in detail within the domain of literary theory. Its new vistas called to life by modern social and cultural studies, reveal psychological peculiarities with regard to national, ethnic and professional motivations of the literary characters, as well as those of their settings. They account for both the development of the collision proper, and the dynamics of the characters shown as action-agents. The paper focuses on some well-chosen references to dramatic action collisions and instances of character development, which specifically address national and ethnic peculiarities in the profile of the latter in the text of Agatha Christie's well-known novel *The Murderer of Roger Ackroyd*.

Of special interest for the authors of the paper is the suggestive impact, the literary text testifies to, viewed as an inherent characteristic of action prose. The text is analysed against the background of national, ethnic and social stereotypes the narrative follows or defies. The conclusions lay the groundwork for further research in the sphere of cross-cultural communicative studies.

Keywords: *suspense, suggestive impact, dramatic collision, national and ethnic peculiarities, communicative studies*