

The Depiction of Children's Characters in Pearl S. Buck's Works

Mamanabiyeva Shakhriyeva Sharofidin qizi¹

¹ Teacher of Department of Applied English Language, Faculty of English Language, Uzbekistan State World Language University

Abstract:

This article explores how the image of children is depicted in Pearl Buck's works and how their inner world is revealed. The discussion is based on selected works by Pearl Buck, including the novels "The Good Earth," "Sons," "The Mother," and "The Big Wave." It examines how these novels portray child characters and their personal development, focusing on the representation of rural life and the inner experiences of the characters.

Keywords: novel, child character, "The Good Earth," "Sons," "The Mother," "The Big Wave," personal development, rural life.

In Pearl S. Buck's works, children are depicted in various roles and forms. Through their portrayal, Buck reveals social, moral, and personal issues within society. Many of Buck's works feature child characters, with "The Good Earth" being one of the most famous. In "The Good Earth," child characters are portrayed as Wang Lung's sons, and their development and role in family life are crucial throughout the novel. Children learn about their family's struggles and achievements through experience and continue their parents' values. Buck's portrayal of children exposes significant meanings and themes in her works and serves as an effective means to highlight social and personal issues.

In "The Good Earth," children's characters play a critical role in the development of the story and in revealing its central themes. The novel, published in 1931, revolves around the life and family of a farmer named Wang Lung in rural China. Children are reflected in several ways: The eldest son, Eldest Son, continues the family's heritage by adhering to his parents' values, reflecting the complexities of rural life. His decisions and the future of the family are central throughout the novel. The second son differs in his activities and lifestyle, choosing a more dynamic and serious path. Through this character, Buck shows social changes and the values of the new generation. The

third son also has unique personal traits and attempts to apply his parents' values in his life, though he stands out in his individuality. Wang Lung's children experience and learn about changes in rural life and social issues through their growth and development. Their maturation and how their goals align with or differ from their parents' dreams are crucial parts of the narrative.

Through these child characters, Buck illustrates the transformations within families and society. The sons' struggles with their parents' values and traditions reflect social changes and the transformation of rural life. Children's depictions often continue their parents' representations in facing hardships and challenges. Their courage and resilience in preserving and improving family life are highlighted. In "The Good Earth," Buck expresses profound thoughts on family, labor, and social change through child characters. They illuminate themes of change, growth, and moral values, contributing to the novel's strength and impact.

The children of Wang Lung, the protagonist of the novel, continue his agricultural work and embody his hopes and dreams. They inherit and reflect their parents' hardworking nature. Buck illustrates how children grow and evolve, adapting to new ideas that are not traditionally part of rural life. This evolution impacts their character and behavior significantly.

The novel "Sons," as a sequel to "The Good Earth," depicts Wang Lung's sons as they transition from adolescence to adulthood, continuing the family legacy. Their lifestyles and perspectives, as well as their attitudes towards the family's future and social changes, are central to the story. This work ensures the continuity of events from "The Good Earth" and continues to explore changes in rural Chinese life. In "Sons," Wang Lung's three sons are central, each with distinct characteristics: Eldest Son takes over the family's management, influencing the family's prosperity and perspectives on rural changes. The second son aims to transition from rural to urban life, focusing on personal advancement and financial success. The youngest son finds his unique place in rural life, and the impact on the family's future is shown throughout the novel.

In "Sons," the interactions and conflicts between city and rural life are significant themes. The sons' transition to urban life and its effects are key topics. The novel illustrates differences and changes between social classes. Each son experiences problems related to their social status and financial situation, which are portrayed through their lives. The relationships and interactions between father and children are crucial, showing how the sons accept or reject family values and how the parents react to changes.

Wang Lung's sons are portrayed as competitive in their quest to inherit and manage the family's wealth. Their characters reflect their struggle for personal gain and control over the family's assets. The sons, influenced by their parents, strive for significant goals. Buck depicts how their characters are shaped by the need to uphold the family's legacy and achieve greater ambitions.

Genetic legacy: The sons shape the family's future by either continuing their parents' heritage or choosing their unique paths. This conflict between legacy and change is explored deeply in the novel. Their life decisions and transition to urban life reflect social changes and processes of cultural adaptation. Their personal development and adjustment to new societal roles are crucial elements of the story. Spiritual and social conflicts, as well as the tension between family values and personal ambitions, are highlighted. "Sons" provides a deeper understanding of rural Chinese life and family values, continuing the themes from "The Good Earth."

In the next novel, "The Mother," child characters are depicted through the mother's relationships with her children in a matriarchal society. The process of raising and influencing her children, her personal struggles, and life difficulties are portrayed. The novel mainly focuses on Wang Lung's wife, her life, and her relationship with their children. Buck, through the character of the mother, demonstrates the role of women, their family, and social functions during a period of change. The mother is depicted as a hard-working and compassionate woman responsible for her family's well-being and education. Her relationships with her children are central, highlighting their life paths,

struggles, and the mother's influence. The novel explores social changes and new conditions in rural life. The mother character embodies qualities like determination, hard work, and resilience against social difficulties. Buck uses the mother to show moral values and the significance of family. The novel portrays the mother's struggle with family issues and her impact on her children. Their lifestyles, life decisions, and the future of the family are key parts of the story. The novel delves into conflicts and relationships between the mother and her children, showing how the mother implements family values and goals, and how the children respond to changes.

"The Mother" reflects the changes and historical conditions of rural Chinese life. Buck shows how social and historical contexts impact the mother's life. The novel is another important part of Buck's works focused on changes and social issues. Through the story of the mother, Buck provides a deeper understanding of rural Chinese life, its social, moral, and historical aspects, offering readers a broader context.

In this novel, the children exhibit strong qualities of diligence and assertiveness. Their character development is influenced by their mother's needs and the ways they manage their relationship with her.

The children show loyalty and respect towards their mother, and this trait plays a crucial role in their personal development. Their devotion impacts their character growth and their interactions with others.

"The Big Wave" is a story intended for children, dealing with escaping from a tsunami and facing hardships. The child characters strive to preserve their lives through their bravery and resilience. The story describes a massive flood in rural China and its impact on the village inhabitants. Written in an engaging and educational manner for children, it tells about natural disasters and human strength. The story features two main child characters—Jiya and his friend Kino. Jiya attempts to escape the flood and preserve his life, while Kino is ready to help Jiya. Their bravery and friendship are central to the narrative. The story raises themes of resisting natural disasters and enduring difficulties. Through Jiya and Kino, Buck showcases courage in facing adversities. Their friendship and mutual support are significant themes. The story illustrates how natural disasters, especially massive floods, affect people's lives and their adaptation to the environment. Through these themes, Buck demonstrates nature's power and human resilience against it. The story provides a moral lesson to young readers about courage, friendship, and facing challenges. Through its accessible plot and characters, it offers spiritual lessons, emphasizing the importance of human values such as bravery, resilience, and friendship. Buck highlights how rural Chinese life copes with natural disasters and their effects on people's lives, with the relationship between nature and humans playing a significant role throughout the narrative. "The Big Wave" is one of Buck's educational works for children, offering lessons on overcoming difficulties, friendship, and natural disasters.

The children in this story demonstrate courage and bravery in the face of natural disasters and hardships. Their characters are revealed through their resilience and their response to the challenges posed by nature.

The children's ability to help each other and work together highlights their supportive nature. This cooperation strengthens their relationships and contributes to their personal growth.

Pearl Buck's child characters often address social issues, personal growth, and life experiences. Through their struggles and successes, Buck reveals social and moral themes, showing readers essential aspects of humanity. In Buck's works, children frequently reflect social injustices or life's difficulties through their hidden talents and sensitivities. Pearl Buck's portrayal of child characters reveals their personal development, relationships with their parents, and the influence of rural life. Through these characters, Buck explores how children grow and evolve in response to their internal and external environments.

Bibliography:

1. Buck, Pearl S. "The Good Earth". New York: John Day Company, 1931.
2. Buck, Pearl S. "Sons". New York: John Day Company, 1932.
3. Buck, Pearl S. "The Mother". New York: John Day Company, 1934.
4. Buck, Pearl S. "The Big Wave". New York: John Day Company, 1936.
5. Mizener, Arthur. "Pearl Buck: A Cultural Biography". New York: William Morrow & Co., 1981.
6. Spiller, Robert E. "The Wayward Bus: The Fiction of Pearl S. Buck". New York: Twayne Publishers, 1967.
7. Wood, H. H. "The Novels of Pearl S. Buck: A Study in the International Novel". Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1958.
8. Cartmell, Deborah. "Pearl S. Buck's Novels: A Literary Review". London: Routledge, 1991.
9. Gardner, Philip. "The Art of Pearl S. Buck". Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1965.
10. Smith, Paul. "Understanding Pearl S. Buck". New York: Random House, 1970.