

PHILOLOGY

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Textual modality as a means of creating of southern gothic discourse (based on F. O'Connor's novel «The Violent Bear It Away»)

The study is devoted to a comprehensive analysis of textual modality based on the novel «The Violent Bear It Away» by Flannery O'Connor. The paper presents the rejection of the traditional dichotomy of subjective and objective modality in favor of the concept of «textual modality», which is more relevant to artistic discourse, understood as a system of mutually influencing modal meanings that ensure the integrity of the text. The concept of «modal nodes» – semantic centers in which ideological tension accumulates – is used as a key analytical tool. The article examines how conflict is constructed with the help of various modal operators and how a change of modal operators interprets meanings. Modal dissonance and the change of modal registers are the central linguistic mechanism for creating the main categories of Southern Gothic discourse: grotesque, fatalism, and split consciousness.

Key words: textual modality, modal node, Southern Gothic, Flannery O'Connor, artistic discourse.

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