



## Lexico-semantic peculiarities of the idea of “great person” in Ch. Marlowe’s ‘Tamburlaine the Great’

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### ABSTRACT

This article deals with Christopher Marlowe’s drama “Tamburlaine the Great” which introduces us to a world of ambition, power, and conquest. The play, which is set against the backdrop of the fourteenth century, is a major work of Elizabethan drama. By depicting Tamburlaine, the main character, as a cunning and charming conqueror, Marlowe examines the idea of a “great person” and its social ramifications. The play explores the intricacies of human nature and the quest for greatness, emphasizing the conflict between morality and ambition. Examining the lexico-semantic quirks of the concept of a “great person” in “Tamburlaine the Great”, we find that Marlowe uses a variety of linguistic and semantic techniques to illustrate the complex character of this term.

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## K. Marloning “Buyuk Temur” dramasidagi “buyuk shaxs” g’oyasining leksik-semantik o’ziga xosliklari

### ANNOTATSIYA

#### Kalit so’zlar:

“buyuk shaxs” tushunchasi,  
leksik-semantik o’ziga  
xosliklar,  
tarixiy dramalar,  
Yelizaveta davri,  
“buyuk shaxs”  
g’oyasining ahamiyati.

Ushbu maqola Kristofer Marloning “Buyuk Temur” dramasi bilan bog’liq, bizni shuhratparastlik, kuch va zabt dunyosi bilan tanishtiradi. O’n to’rtinchi asr fonida tasvirlangan spektakl Yelizaveta davri dramasi asosiy asaridir. Bosh qahramon Amir Temurni ayyor va maftunkor bosqinchi sifatida tasvirlash orqali Marlo “buyuk shaxs” g’oyasini va uning ijtimoiy ta’sirlarini ko’rib chiqadi. Asarda inson tabiatining nozik jihatlari, ulug’likka intilish yo’lga qo’yilgan, axloq va shuhratparastlik o’rtasidagi ziddiyatga urg’u berilgan. “Buyuk Temur” asaridagi “buyuk shaxs” tushunchasining leksik-

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semantik jihatini o'rganar ekanmiz, Marlo bu atamaning murakkab xarakterini ko'rsatish uchun turli lingvistik va semantik usullardan foydalanganligini ko'ramiz.

## **Лексико-семантические особенности понятия «великий человек» в драме К. Марло «Тамерлан Великий»**

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### **АННОТАЦИЯ**

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#### **Ключевые слова:**

концепт  
«великий человек»,  
лексико-семантические  
особенности,  
исторические драмы,  
елизаветинский период,  
значение идеи «великого  
человека».

Эта статья посвящена драме Кристофера Марлоу «Тамерлан Великий», которая знакомит нас с миром амбиций, власти и завоеваний. Пьеса, действие которой разворачивается в четырнадцатом веке, представляет собой значительное произведение елизаветинской драматургии. Показывая главного героя Тамерлана как хитрого и обаятельного завоевателя, Марлоу исследует идею «великого человека» и ее социальные последствия. Спектакль анализирует тонкости человеческой натуры и стремление к величию, подчеркивая конфликт между моралью и амбициями. При изучении лексико-семантических особенностей понятия «великий человек» в «Тамерлане Великом» мы обнаруживаем, что Марлоу использует разнообразные лингвистические и семантические приемы для иллюстрации сложной природы этого термина.

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the play 'Tamburlaine the Great', written by Christopher Marlowe, we are introduced to a world of power, ambition, and conquest. Set in the backdrop of the 14th century, the play holds significant importance in the realm of Elizabethan drama. Marlowe's portrayal of the protagonist, Tamburlaine, as a charismatic and ruthless conqueror, explores the concept of a 'great person' and its implications within society. The play delves into the complexities of human nature and the pursuit of greatness, highlighting the tension between ambition and morality. As we delve into the lexico-semantic peculiarities of the idea of a 'great person' in 'Tamburlaine the Great', it becomes evident that Marlowe employs a range of linguistic and semantic devices to convey the multifaceted nature of this concept. Through the use of symbolism and imagery, Marlowe creates a vivid and evocative world that immerses the audience in the grandeur and brutality of Tamburlaine's conquests. As we explore the various dimensions of this play, it becomes clear that 'Tamburlaine the Great' is not merely a historical drama, but a profound exploration of power, ambition, and the complexities of human nature. Its significance in Elizabethan drama lies in its ability to captivate audiences with its compelling characters, thought-provoking themes, and masterful use of language.

One of Marlowe's most famous and influential works is his drama Tamburlaine the Great. This play, written in two parts and first performed in the late 1580s, showcases Marlowe's exceptional talent for dramatic storytelling and his exploration of complex

themes. Tamburlaine the Great tells the story of a shepherd who rises to power and becomes a conqueror, challenging the established order and questioning the limits of human ambition. Marlowe's vivid and poetic language, combined with his intricate character development, captivates audiences and provides a thought-provoking reflection on power, ambition, and the human condition.

Exploring the concept of a 'great person' and its role in Marlowe's play, 'Tamburlaine the Great', reveals a multifaceted and complex understanding of this idea. In the play, a 'great person' is not simply defined by their physical prowess or military conquests, but rather by their ability to inspire awe and fear in others. Tamburlaine, the protagonist of the play, embodies this notion of greatness through his relentless ambition and thirst for power. He is portrayed as a charismatic leader who possesses an uncanny ability to sway the opinions and actions of those around him. This ability to manipulate and control others is a defining characteristic of a 'great person' in Marlowe's play. Furthermore, the concept of greatness is also closely tied to the idea of divine providence. Tamburlaine sees himself as a chosen instrument of fate, destined to conquer and rule over vast territories. This belief in his greatness is reinforced through various symbolic references throughout the play, such as the recurring motif of the eagle, which represents both strength and majesty. Additionally, Marlowe employs vivid imagery to depict Tamburlaine's greatness, describing him as a "thunderbolt" and a "scourge of God." These powerful and evocative descriptions further emphasize the awe-inspiring nature of a 'great person' in the context of the play. In conclusion, Marlowe's portrayal of the 'great person' in 'Tamburlaine the Great' delves into the complexities of power, manipulation, and divine providence. Through the character of Tamburlaine, the play explores the multifaceted nature of greatness and its impact on those who encounter it. In Christopher Marlowe's play 'Tamburlaine the Great', the concept of a 'great person' is explored through various lexico-semantic peculiarities. The play, set in the 14th century, follows the rise and reign of Tamburlaine, a shepherd turned conqueror who aspires to greatness and dominance. This introduction aims to provide an overview of the play and its significance in the context of lexico-semantic peculiarities surrounding the idea of a 'great person'. 'Tamburlaine the Great' is a highly influential and controversial work of Elizabethan drama, known for its grandeur and ambitious portrayal of power. Marlowe's use of language and vocabulary highlights the complexities and contradictions inherent in the notion of greatness. Through the exploration of Tamburlaine's character and actions, the play delves into the shifting meanings and connotations associated with the concept of greatness. By examining the lexical choices employed by Marlowe, we gain insight into the multifaceted nature of the 'great person' and how language shapes our understanding of this idea. The analysis of lexico-semantic peculiarities in 'Tamburlaine the Great' offers a deeper understanding of the play's themes and the complexities surrounding the concept of greatness in Elizabethan society.

### **LEXICO-SEMANTIC ANALYSIS**

The language and word choices used in Christopher Marlowe's play 'Tamburlaine the Great' play a significant role in depicting the idea of a 'great person'. Through a lexico-semantic analysis of the text, we can examine the unique linguistic features that contribute to the portrayal of greatness. Marlowe employs a rich and varied vocabulary, carefully selecting words that convey power, authority, and magnificence. The protagonist, Tamburlaine, is described using words such as "mighty," "majestic," and

“regal,” highlighting his extraordinary qualities. These lexical choices not only emphasize his physical strength but also his ability to inspire awe and admiration in others. Additionally, Marlowe employs figurative language, such as metaphors and similes, to further enhance the portrayal of greatness.

For example, Tamburlaine is compared to a “conquering storm” and a “thunderbolt,” emphasizing his forceful and unstoppable nature. Symbolism and imagery are also employed to reinforce the idea of a ‘great person’. The use of symbols, such as the crown and the scepter, represents power and authority, while vivid descriptions of Tamburlaine’s conquests and triumphs create a visual image of his greatness. Overall, the lexico-semantic analysis of ‘Tamburlaine the Great’ reveals the meticulous use of language and word choices to depict the idea of a ‘great person’. Marlowe’s selection of powerful and evocative words, combined with the use of symbolism and imagery, effectively conveys the magnificence and awe-inspiring nature of Tamburlaine.

Analyzing the symbolic and imagery devices employed to convey the notion of a ‘great person’ in the play, “Tamburlaine the Great,” reveals the intricate and layered portrayal of greatness. Marlowe skillfully utilizes symbolism and imagery to depict the multifaceted nature of a ‘great person.’ One prominent symbol is the crown, which represents power and authority. Throughout the play, the crown is frequently associated with Tamburlaine, emphasizing his status as a great leader. Additionally, the imagery of the sun is employed to convey the immense influence and dominance of Tamburlaine. The sun is often used to describe his radiant presence and ability to command attention. Furthermore, Marlowe employs the imagery of conquest and warfare to symbolize Tamburlaine’s greatness. The depiction of battles and victories serves to highlight his military prowess and strategic brilliance. Another significant symbol is the throne, which represents Tamburlaine’s ambition and desire for power. The throne becomes a powerful metaphor for his relentless pursuit of greatness. Moreover, Marlowe utilizes the imagery of language and rhetoric to convey the persuasive and charismatic qualities of a ‘great person.’ Tamburlaine’s eloquent speeches and persuasive rhetoric captivate his followers and solidify his position as a charismatic leader. Lastly, the imagery of the heavens and celestial bodies is employed to elevate Tamburlaine’s status and emphasize his divine-like qualities. By utilizing these symbolic and imagery devices, Marlowe effectively conveys the complexities and nuances of the idea of a ‘great person’ in “Tamburlaine the Great.” In Ch. Marlowe’s ‘Tamburlaine the Great’, the lexical choices play a crucial role in portraying the concept of a ‘great person’. Examining the specific words and phrases used in the play reveals the semantic implications associated with this idea. One such lexical choice is the repeated use of words like “conquer” and “victory”, which emphasize Tamburlaine’s ambition and desire for power. These words not only highlight his determination but also reflect the societal perception of greatness as dominance and success. Additionally, the play employs a range of adjectives such as “noble”, “valiant”, and “mighty” to describe Tamburlaine, further enhancing his image as a great person. These adjectives not only emphasize his physical strength and prowess but also convey a sense of admiration and awe. Furthermore, the play utilizes metaphors and similes to enhance the lexical choices and their semantic implications. For instance, Tamburlaine is compared to “the scourge of God” and “the terror of the world”, evoking a sense of fear and reverence. These metaphors not only highlight his power and influence but also contribute to the overall portrayal of a great person. Overall, the analysis of lexical choices in ‘Tamburlaine the Great’ reveals the careful selection of words and phrases that effectively convey the concept of a ‘great person’ and their semantic implications.



Throughout Christopher Marlowe's play "Tamburlaine the Great," the idea of a 'great person' undergoes several semantic shifts, which have a significant impact on the overall meaning and interpretation of the play. These shifts can be observed through the changing connotations and associations attached to the term 'great person' as the narrative progresses. Initially, the concept of a 'great person' is closely linked to military prowess and conquest. Tamburlaine, the protagonist of the play, is portrayed as a fearless and ambitious conqueror who seeks to establish his dominance over vast territories. However, as the play unfolds, the semantic scope of the term expands to encompass not only military might but also qualities such as intelligence, strategic thinking, and leadership. Tamburlaine's greatness is not solely defined by his military victories but also by his ability to inspire loyalty and command respect from his followers. Moreover, the idea of a 'great person' undergoes a further shift in meaning when Tamburlaine's character is juxtaposed with that of other rulers in the play. While Tamburlaine is portrayed as a benevolent and just leader, other rulers are depicted as corrupt and tyrannical.

This contrast serves to emphasize Tamburlaine's greatness not only in terms of his military accomplishments but also in terms of his moral character. Overall, the exploration of semantic shifts surrounding the idea of a 'great person' in "Tamburlaine the Great" adds depth and complexity to the play, highlighting the multifaceted nature of greatness and its impact on the interpretation of the narrative.

### CONCLUSION

This article delves into a detailed analysis of Marlowe's drama Tamburlaine the Great, examining its themes, characters, and dramatic techniques. Tamburlaine the Great is a play written by Christopher Marlowe in the late 16th century. It is a two-part play that follows the rise and fall of Tamburlaine, a shepherd who becomes a powerful conqueror. One of the main themes explored in the play is the pursuit of power and its consequences. Tamburlaine's relentless ambition drives him to conquer nations and assert his dominance, but this ultimately leads to his downfall. The play also explores themes of love, loyalty, and the nature of leadership. Marlowe's use of language and poetic techniques adds depth and complexity to the characters and their interactions. The play is known for its powerful and vivid imagery, as well as its exploration of moral and philosophical ideas. The character of Tamburlaine is portrayed as a complex and charismatic figure, capable of both great cruelty and great compassion. Marlowe's use of dramatic techniques, such as soliloquies and asides, allows the audience to gain insight into the characters' thoughts and motivations. Overall, Tamburlaine the Great is a thought-provoking and compelling drama that explores timeless themes and showcases Marlowe's skill as a playwright.

Throughout the lexico-semantic analysis of the idea of a 'great person' in Ch. Marlowe's 'Tamburlaine the Great', several key findings and insights have emerged. Firstly, it is evident that the concept of a 'great person' is multifaceted and encompasses various dimensions. Marlowe's portrayal of Tamburlaine as a powerful and ambitious ruler highlights the notion of greatness as being synonymous with political prowess and dominance. Additionally, the lexical choices employed by Marlowe contribute to the development of the 'great person' motif, with words such as 'conquer,' 'subdue,' and 'command' emphasizing Tamburlaine's authoritative nature.

Furthermore, the semantic nuances associated with the idea of a 'great person' in the play extend beyond political power. Marlowe explores the psychological aspects of greatness, delving into Tamburlaine's complex psyche and his insatiable thirst for conquest. The use of imagery, such as the metaphorical references to Tamburlaine as a "scourge of God," further reinforces the grandeur and magnificence associated with the 'great person' archetype.

Moreover, the symbolism employed in 'Tamburlaine the Great' adds depth to the portrayal of a 'great person.' The recurring motif of the crown symbolizes the ultimate attainment of power and authority, highlighting the central role of ambition in defining greatness. Additionally, the imagery of the battlefield serves as a symbolic representation of the challenges and obstacles faced by a 'great person' on their path to dominance.

In conclusion, the lexico-semantic analysis of the idea of a 'great person' in Ch. Marlowe's 'Tamburlaine the Great' reveals a comprehensive exploration of the multifaceted nature of greatness. Marlowe's careful choice of words, the intricate use of symbolism, and the vivid imagery employed all contribute to the portrayal of Tamburlaine as a 'great person.' This examination of the lexico-semantic peculiarities of the idea provides valuable insights into the complexities of greatness and its representation in literature.

In conclusion, Christopher Marlowe's life and work are a testament to his immense talent and impact on Elizabethan drama. From his humble beginnings in Canterbury to his influential plays, Marlowe's legacy as a playwright and poet endures. His exploration of power, ambition, and morality, coupled with his innovative use of language, cemented his place in literary history. Despite his tragic end, Marlowe's contributions to English literature remain invaluable.

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