



## Literary genres in classical Greek and Latin literature

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**Abstract.** The purpose of the study was the in-depth examination of the diversity of genre forms in classical Greek and Latin literature and the analysis of the influence of cultural, social, and political realities on these genres. The study covered the analysis of major literary genres such as epic, tragedy, comedy, lyricism, satire, and elegy, with a particular focus on the influence of Greek models on the development of Latin literature. The study analysed the works of such outstanding authors as Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Virgil, Horace, and other canonical creators of ancient literature. The results showed the unique features of each genre and their evolution under the influence of historical and social changes. In particular, it is established that Greek tragedies and comedies had a substantial influence on the formation of Roman drama, while Roman poets such as Virgil and Horace developed the genres of epic and lyricism, considering Greek traditions but creating their own unique works. The results of the study highlighted the importance of cultural exchange between Greece and Rome, which contributed to the formation of a rich literary legacy that influenced the further development of world literature. The results also indicated that the interaction between different genres in Greek and Latin literature occurred in response to changes in society and political conditions, which contributed to their dynamic development and adaptation to new realities. This study contributes to understanding the specifics of genre forms of ancient literature and their role in the historical context, opening up new perspectives for further research

**Keywords:** antiquity; epic; drama; lyrics; satire; elegy

### Introduction

Literary genres in classical Greek and Latin literature are a substantial topic for research, as they reflect the cultural, social, and political realities of antiquity. Literary works of that time

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are characterised by a substantial self-awareness of their positioning in relation to their predecessors and contemporaries and a deep awareness of belonging to tradition, regardless of the views of their authors on this connection. In addition, the analysis of these genres allows tracing the evolution of literary forms and their impact on the further development of world literature. From the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present day, many Ukrainian researchers have considered the specifics of certain genres in Greek and Roman literature.

N. Astrakhan (2023) analysed the tragedy “Oedipus Rex” by Sophocles as a fundamental work of attic tragedy, exploring the evolution of the main character and his struggle for truth in the context of ancient philosophy and its connection with later belief systems. N. Vladimirova (2024) systematised knowledge about the theatres of Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome. I.V. Kozlyk (2020) covers both Greek and Roman literature in its study, analysing their genres, styles, themes, and their impact on further literary creativity. A. Snizhko (2023) structured ancient literature, paying attention to the philosophical context of literature and the level of attachment to society. A publication by I. Zaitseva (2021) offered a comparative analysis of ancient and modern drama, demonstrating how classical dramatic techniques and themes continue to influence contemporary authors. V. Rybachuk (2023) explored the phenomenon of the extraordinary cultural flourishing of Ancient Greece in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, in particular, and seeks to identify the reasons for such a rapid development of civilisation and its impact on the future history of mankind. The author analyses various factors that could contribute to this phenomenon, drawing attention to the intellectual achievements of the Greeks in various fields: philosophy, art, literature, and science.

In general, researchers examined a certain aspect of ancient literature. For example, O. Lefterova (2022) worked on the formation of plot archetypes through the image of the

sea element in the tale of Cupid and Psyche: a mythocritical examination of Apuleius’ novel “Metamorphoses”. O.H. Kozynets & A.I. Ostapenko (2021) compare the ideas of Plato and Aristotle about state and law in the context of modern political philosophy, which indicates the connection of research with modern scientific discussions. D. Shipko (2020) uses a mythocritical approach to analyse the works of Ovid in the context of the cultural transformations of the Roman Empire (Riley, 2007). The author demonstrates how Ovid poetry reflects changes in the collective consciousness of the Romans and how it influenced the further development of European culture. O. Turhan (2021) explores the image of Sappho in the works of Ukrainian modernists of the late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The author analyses the transformation of the myth of Sappho in the context of Ukrainian literature, identifying the synthesis of Western European and national cultural traditions in the interpretation of this image. Many studies focus on a single genre or aspect of a genre, but there are no comprehensive studies that compare and contrast different genres. In addition, some genres of classical literature, such as satire and elegy, have not received proper attention in modern scientific discourse. The study of this problem is relevant, as it allows identifying new aspects and features of the literary creativity of antiquity.

The problem of examining genre forms in classical literature, in particular, Greek and Latin, also consists of determining and analysing their specific features and their impact on the cultural and social processes of that era. Greek tragedy and comedy, like Roman epic and satire, have their own unique features that reflect the social, political, and cultural trends of their time. Thus, the purpose of the study was to fill in the gaps in the examination of the relationship between different genres in classical Greek and Latin literature and analyse the specifics of their development under the influence of historical and social changes. This will contribute

to a deeper understanding of the literary processes of antiquity and their role in the historical context, opening up new perspectives for further research in this area.

### **Materials and Methods**

The main materials for the analysis were literary works of classical Greek and Latin literature, scientific works, monographs, and papers dealing with the issues of genre forms in ancient literature. Substantial literary works that prominently represent various genres of classical Greek and Latin literature were selected for the study. The *Iliad* of Homer (Pope, 1899) and *The Odyssey* by Homer (Tinsley & Widger, 1999) were included in the study as vivid examples of an epic poem that allows tracing the development of this genre in ancient Greek literature. The tragedy “*Agamemnon*” by Aeschylus (n.d.), “*Oedipus Rex*” by Sophocles (1949) and “*Medea*” by Euripides (n.d.) were chosen to analyse the evolution of the tragic genre, its themes, and artistic features in different periods of antiquity. The comedy “*Lysistrata*” by Aristophanes (2008) allows exploring the features of ancient Greek comedy, its social function, and the use of satirical techniques to criticise society. Poems of Sappho (n.d.) and Archilochos (n.d.) were included to analyse the development of lyrical poetry, its themes and stylistic features.

The epic poem “*The Aeneid*” by Virgil (n.d.) serves as an example of the development of the epic genre in Roman literature and allows comparing it with Greek models. The lyrical works “*Odes*” by Horace represent the diversity of lyrical genres in Roman poetry and allow tracing the influence of Greek lyrics on Roman poets (Smart, 2004). The “*Metamorphoses*” by Ovid, as an example of Roman metamorphoses, allows exploring the transformation of mythological subjects into literature and the specific features of this genre (Riley, 2007). *Satires* Juvenal (2011) is a prime example of the satirical genre in Roman literature, which allows

analysing social criticism and its artistic means. The elegies of Tibullus represent love lyrics in Roman poetry and allow exploring the evolution of this genre from Greek models (Williams, 1908). Thus, the choice of these works allows for the covering of a wide range of classical literature genres, which is important for understanding the development of the literary process in antiquity.

While working on the study, a detailed analysis of papers devoted to the topic of genre forms in classical Greek and Latin literature, for example, studies by A. Snizhko (2023), V. Rybachuk (2023), N. Astrakhan (2023). The socio-political conditions that influenced the formation and development of literary genres were also examined, and the influence of historical events, such as the Peloponnesian War, on the development of literature was considered. Genre analysis was conducted – the specifics of the main genres in the works of selected authors were reviewed and a comparative analysis of Greek and Latin samples was conducted; common features and differences between the genres of the two cultures were determined. Textual analysis – the analysis of individual literary works that are examples of a particular genre, including the examination of literary techniques, stylistic features, and thematic motifs. It is considered how specific literary techniques contributed to the formation of genre characteristics.

Classification and generalisation methods: the results of the analysis are systematised, conclusions about the specifics of genre forms in classical Greek and Latin literature are formulated, and a systematic approach is used to identify the relationships between different genres and their development in the historical and cultural context. Literary methods: the hermeneutical method was used to interpret texts, and the method of comparative literary studies was used to identify specific features and differences between Greek and Latin genres. Linguistic methods: a stylistic analysis of the linguistic features of texts is conducted, and

rhetorical techniques and their role in the formation of genre characteristics are considered. Content analysis was used to determine the frequency of use of certain thematic elements and literary techniques in works of various genres. The paper examines how individual elements of texts affect the overall genre structure of works. A quantitative analysis of the frequency of use of certain thematic elements and literary techniques in works of various genres is conducted. This allowed identifying the main trends in the development of genres and their interaction.

The sample included only those literary works that are canonical representatives of the relevant genres and have a substantial impact on the further development of literature. Works that did not have a notable impact or were not recognised by critics and scholars as key to understanding genre forms were excluded from the analysis. This approach provided a comprehensive analysis of literary genres in classical Greek and Latin literature, allowing the identification of new aspects of their development and interaction.

## Results and Discussion

Ancient literature represents the literary legacy of the ancient Greeks and Romans, which developed in the Mediterranean region, covering the Balkan and Apennine peninsulas and nearby islands and coasts. The beginning of this literary stage dates back to the 8th century BC, when the first written works of Greek literature appeared (Buiwol, 2013). These literary works, written in dialects of Greek and Latin, date back to the first millennium BC and the beginning of the first millennium AD. Ancient literature consists of two main national literary traditions: ancient Greek and ancient Roman. Historically, ancient Greek literature appeared earlier and became the basis for the development of the Roman literary tradition. This cultural region has become the cradle of many outstanding literary traditions that have left an indelible mark on the history of world literature. The geographical

location and influence of various civilisations surrounding the Mediterranean Sea have created favourable conditions for the development of a unique literary legacy. These works became the basis for the further development of literature, setting the tone and theme for the next generations of writers and poets. From the early Greek classics to the Roman Golden Age, the literary works of antiquity show evolution and adaptation to changing conditions while retaining the characteristic features of their eras. In the ancient world, all areas of culture, including education, science, literature, and art, flourished substantially. The work of ancient authors, both in science and art, had a humanistic character, putting humans and their physical and spiritual lives at the centre of attention. The literature of this period maintained a close connection with myth, magic, religious cult, and ritual, which were an integral part of its origin and development. Even in the later times of ancient literature, these elements remained prominent, reflecting the ideological features of tribal, polis, and state life.

## Features of genre forms and stylistic techniques in ancient Greek literature

In the 8<sup>th</sup>-6 centuries BC, slave-owning poleis were formed in Ancient Greece – city-states with autonomous administration. Ancient Greek scholars, in particular Aristotle, characterised the absence of such political formations among other peoples as a sign of barbarism and moral underdevelopment. In the leading ancient Greek poleis, such as Athens, a democratic system of government was formed, which became one of the most important achievements of ancient Greek culture. The supreme authority was the people's assembly, in which all citizens participated. This organisation of public life had a substantial impact on the customs, traditions, moral norms, and art of that period. Open discussion of laws at the people's assembly contributed to the desacralisation of social institutions and thinking, forming

freedom of the spirit and the development of critical reflection and rationalism. Competitive and polemical spirit was a key feature of ancient Greek culture. It was manifested in sports competitions, poetry, music and art competitions, gladiator fights, public oratory speeches and philosophical disputes, which stimulated a high assessment of the creative principle in the activity of the individual. The struggle for opinions and freedom of criticism created the ideological and spiritual environment in which ancient Greek science and philosophy developed. The genres of ancient Greek literature, in particular, Plato's dialogues, were deeply rooted in the social structure of their time, reflecting and influencing cultural, religious, and political realities.

Homer, an outstanding ancient Greek poet known for his epic poems "Iliad" and "Odyssey" (Pope, 1899; Tinsley & Widger, 1999), made a substantial contribution to the development of the epic genre in ancient literature. The poems "Iliad" and "Odyssey" are based on mythological plots, in particular, on stories about the Trojan War, which contain both historical and mythological elements. These works are created on the basis of oral translations, which were later literary processed and recorded. Poems appeared in the 8th century BC, reflecting several historical and literary eras, especially the period of maturity of the primitive communal system. Homer's poems demonstrate an epic ideal where the characters embody valour, courage, and loyalty to their tribe and people. The relations between a person, a hero, a tribe, and a people in the works reflect the collective values of the society of that time. Homer's characters are characterised by a combination of folklore and literary features. They show spontaneous realism and individualism, which adds depth to them. The poems have a unique compositional structure and genre features and are distinguished by a rich artistic style, saturated with descriptions, comparisons, and

metaphors. They have been translated into many languages, including Slavic, which indicates their importance in world literature. The literature of antiquity was marked by a substantial genre diversity. Greek authors laid the foundations for such genres as epic, tragedy, and comedy, which became canonical in European literature. The works of Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes not only reflect the spiritual and social issues of their time but also continue to influence literary traditions to this day. Greek literature created standards that became guidelines for subsequent generations of writers. The classical period of ancient Greek culture, marked by the flourishing of philosophical thought and literature, is considered to be the golden age of Hellenism. This time is marked by the activities of outstanding philosophers such as Democritus and Socrates and the development of the main literary genres – tragedy and comedy.

Outstanding representatives of the tragedy were Aeschylus and Sophocles. Aeschylus, known as the "father of tragedy", has created deep dramatic works that explore themes of fate, divine intervention, and moral responsibility. Aeschylus is one of the key figures in the history of Greek tragedy, and his works demonstrate a complete, classical form of this genre, which later underwent further improvement. Greatness is one of the main features of Aeschylus' tragedies. His works reflect the heroic era of the first half of the 5th century BC when the Greeks fought for their freedom and independence during the Greco-Persian Wars. These events had a substantial impact on the work of Aeschylus, as he was not only a witness but also an active participant in these events. Aeschylus' dramatic works are marked by large-scale conflicts and strong emotional tensions. They reflect the intense struggle not only on the battlefield but also within Athenian society. The victories of democracy were accompanied by conflicts with some traditional institutions,

such as the Areopagus, and these socio-political changes were reflected in its tragedies (Gavrilyuk, 2015). In Aeschylus' works, such conflicts are often expressed through strong passions and moral dilemmas. The work of Aeschylus can be considered as an important stage in the development of Greek literature, especially the genre of tragedy. His plays, such as *Oresteia* and *Prometheus Bound*, not only develop storylines and characters but also deeply explore issues of justice, power, and destiny. Aeschylus introduced a second actor to his plays, which substantially increased the dramatic possibilities and allowed creating more complex and dynamic scenes. This innovation became the basis for the further development of the Greek tragedy. Thus, Aeschylus not only laid the foundations of classical tragedy but also substantially influenced the further development of Greek literature. His works became an example for subsequent generations of playwrights, such as Sophocles and Euripides, and left a deep mark on the history of literature. Due to his contribution, Greek tragedy has reached new heights in its development, enriching the cultural legacy of the ancient world.

Sophocles is one of the key figures in the history of Greek tragedy, and his work marks important innovations in the structure of this genre. Sophocles introduced a third actor, which substantially expanded the dramatic possibilities and allowed for more complex dialogue scenes. This step not only enriched the theatrical art but also allowed the unveiling of the psychological depth of the characters, making their images more multifaceted. Some of Sophocles' most notable works are the tragedies "*Oedipus Rex*" and "*Antigone*". In these plays, he explores complex issues of human-social interaction, in particular, the conflict between the individual and the state. The tragedy "*Antigone*" especially clearly illustrates this subject, depicting the main character's struggle for moral correctness against state laws. *Antigone* becomes a symbol of personal conscience and individual freedom,

opposing authoritarian power. One of the main features of Sophocles' poetics is the independence of each tragedy in the trilogy. Unlike his predecessors, Sophocles did not seek to create a single storyline for the entire trilogy, and each of its plays had its own complete structure. This allowed focusing on the inner world of the characters, revealing their emotions and motives in more detail (Gavrilyuk, 2015). Complexity and speed of action are also characteristic features of Sophocles' tragedies. He improved the structure of the action, making it more dynamic and eventful. The introduction of a third actor contributed to an increase in the number of dialogic parts, which allowed for a deeper exploration of conflicts between characters and the development of dramatic tension. Tragic irony is another important feature of Sophocles' works. It consists of using situations in which the characters, trying to avoid their fate, approach a tragic end. This technique allowed the author to emphasise the inevitability of fate and the limited human will, which are the central themes in Sophocles' work. Thus, Sophocles made a substantial contribution to the development of the genre of Greek tragedy, enriching it with new elements and deep philosophical reflections. His innovations in drama, the psychological depth of the characters, and the social importance of the works made him one of the most influential playwrights of antiquity, whose works still continue to be studied.

Euripides, one of the greatest playwrights of Greek tragedy, worked during the crisis of Athenian slave democracy. His work is marked by deep social criticism and emphasis on the internal conflicts of the individual, which reflects the tense atmosphere of society at that time. Euripides focused on free workers as the basis of the polis, contrasting them with the reigning aristocracy. His works were often criticised by traditional folk beliefs, which sets his drama apart from previous authors such as Aeschylus and Sophocles. This criticism was manifested by showing the weaknesses of the gods

and the problematic nature of mythological heroes, calling into question established religious and social norms. The central element of Euripides' tragedies is the conflict between the public and the personal in an individual's life. He explored how these conflicts affect the human psyche and behaviour, offering various solutions to this contradiction. For example, in the tragedy "Medea" Euripides (n.d.), the main character faces personal betrayal and public condemnation, which pushes her to extreme measures. Medea, abandoned by her husband, commits a terrible crime against her own children to get revenge. This work reveals the complexity of human emotions and shows how personal feelings can lead to devastating consequences. "Iphigenia at Aulis" is another important work where Euripides analyses the conflict between personal feelings and social demands. Iphigenia falls victim to political intrigue and military needs when her father, Agamemnon (Aeschylus, n.d.), decides to sacrifice her to the gods to ensure a successful campaign against Troy. This tragedy highlights the drama of a situation where personal sacrifice becomes a necessity to achieve public goals. Euripides has substantially enriched the genre of tragedy by introducing a deeper psychological analysis of the characters and more complex emotional situations. His characters often face moral dilemmas that reflect the real conflicts of society at that time. The playwright also paid special attention to the role of women in his works, giving them strong and multifaceted characters, which was groundbreaking for Greek literature (Gavrilyuk, 2015). Thus, Euripides' work is marked not only by a high artistic level but also by a substantial contribution to the development of the tragedy genre. He expanded the thematic and psychological boundaries of this genre, making it more relevant and insightful. Euripides remains one of the key figures in the history of Greek literature, whose works continue to be explored and influence modern drama.

Tragedy and comedy developed in Ancient Greece had a great influence on Western drama. The works of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides laid the foundations for the development of the tragic genre, which raises complex moral and philosophical questions. Greek tragedies, with their in-depth analysis of human nature and moral dilemmas, resonate with Shakespearean tragedies such as Hamlet and Macbeth. In the genre of comedy, Aristophanes (2008) stands out, whose plays are marked by sharp satire on the political and social events of their time. Aristophanes, the author of such well-known comedies as *Lysistrata* Aristophanes and *The Knights*, used humour to criticise Athenian democracy, war, and social vices. His works are distinguished by vivid characters, bold parodies, and brilliant dialogue. The Aristophanes comedies, which combined satire and social criticism, became the prototype for the Roman comedies by Plautus, which, in turn, influenced the development of European comedy, including Moliere's work in France.

S.W. Larson (2014) emphasises that Aristophanes' plays depict excesses of characteristics that Athenians considered positive, pointing to the corruption of institutions and oratory practices. In addition, S.W. Larson notes that by highlighting flaws in the caricatures, Aristophanes sought to draw public attention to suspicious behaviour and suggest alternative actions to correct public problems. The study also highlights the importance of social and political context for understanding ancient literature, noting the substantial role of Aristophanes in disclosing social flaws through satire. The satirical element in Aristophanes' comedies was not only entertaining in nature but also a means of social criticism aimed at reforming social norms and practices.

The change in social realities in poleis led to the emergence of a new literary genre – lyrics, which differed from epic poems in their focus on the everyday experiences of ordinary residents. Epic works depicting the heroic exploits

of aristocratic warriors did not reflect the feelings and emotions of the majority of the population. Instead, the lyrics became more personal and emotionally intense, appealing to the inner world of a person. The first examples of lyrics appear in the works of such outstanding poets as Archilochos and Sappho (Sappho, n.d.; Archilochos, n.d.). Alcaeus, a contemporary of Sappho, created songs on political and military themes, about love and wine, expressing his personal experiences and aspirations in them. His poetry, full of energy and expression, reflects the complex relationships and passions of the time.

Ancient literature, especially ancient Greek, has made a substantial contribution to the development of poetic forms, many of which have retained their importance. The Greek poet Homer created works in the form of an epic hexameter, a six-stop verse that was performed to the accompaniment of a flute. Lyrical poetry that emerged later got its name from the use of the lyre as a musical instrument to accompany poems. In lyrical poetry, two- or three-syllable feet were used, which gave it a more melodic and rhythmic sound. Archilochos, one of the most prominent representatives of early Greek lyrics, became an innovator in the use of feet such as chorea and iambic. His poetry was characterised by dynamism and sharpness, which allowed expressing not only personal experiences but also social criticism. Special attention should be paid to the work of Sappho from the island of Lesbos, which has become a symbol of Greek lyrics. Her poetry, dedicated to the themes of love and female friendship, was distinguished by intimacy and emotionality. Sappho used complex meters such as the sapphire verse, which became a classic model for lyrical poets. Her works celebrated the culture of Aphrodite, the goddess of love, which gave them a deep symbolic meaning. Thus, ancient Greek lyrics developed due to innovations in poetic forms and the deep content of works. Greek lyrics have also had a substantial impact on the development of this genre in other cultures.

The songs and poems of Sappho, Alcaeus, and Archilochos influenced the poetic traditions of Rome and medieval Europe. Horace, a Roman poet, largely imitated Greek lyrics but created his own style that combined Greek aesthetics with Roman cultural characteristics. His works became a model for many generations of poets, including the Renaissance and classicism. Lyrical forms developed in antiquity retained their popularity and influence on the poetry of subsequent centuries, contributing to the development of genres such as sonnet, ode, and elegy.

Prosaic genres in ancient literature appeared much later than poetic ones. This was due to the ease of memorising texts and changes in the public worldview. Prose appeared when the mythological explanation of the world ceased to satisfy society, and there was a need for scientific knowledge. The mythological explanation of the world was emotional and possible for collective perception, while scientific knowledge required individual work and analytical thinking. Prose developed in parallel with the formation of the idea of statehood. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, society began to strive for unity and systematisation of knowledge. The first prose works were on the border between art and science. Historical and philosophical works, although subject to the laws of artistic creativity, still had a scientific character. For example, the works of Herodotus and Thucydides contained many metaphors, epithets, and comparisons but also presented facts and patterns that are important for understanding historical processes. The Hellenistic period, the beginning of which is traditionally associated with the activities of Alexander III of Macedon, is marked by a substantial renewal of genres, themes, and stylistics in Greek literature. It was a time of radical changes when traditional literary forms gradually lost their relevance, and new genres, in particular, the prose novel, took their place.

Greek literature really played a crucial role in shaping the philosophical and rhetorical genres that left a deep mark on Western

philosophy and literary theory. Plato's dialogues and Aristotle's treatises became fundamental texts that influenced the intellectual tradition of Western Europe. Plato wrote his philosophical works in the form of dialogues. This literary form allowed him to effectively present philosophical ideas through interactive discussions between characters. Plato's dialogues laid the foundation for many philosophical trends. His concepts of idealism, the theory of forms, and the method of dialectics became key to further philosophical research. In the Middle Ages, Plato's works became important for Scholastic thinkers such as Saint Augustine and Thomas Aquinas (Potsyurko, 2014). They integrated platonic ideas into Christian theology, developing the doctrine of divine ideas and the immortality of the soul. During the Renaissance, platonic ideas experienced a new rise due to the work of humanists such as Marsilio Ficino. They reinterpreted ancient concepts in the context of Renaissance humanism, emphasising the importance of individuality and intellectual development. Aristotle, a student of Plato, developed numerous treatises that systematised knowledge in various fields: logic, metaphysics, ethics, politics, rhetoric, and poetics. His approach was more empirical and systematic compared to platonic idealism. Aristotle, in his poetry, first defined the foundations of drama, analysing the structure of tragedy, the concept of catharsis, mimesis, and other literary elements. His works influenced the theory and practice of theatrical art from antiquity to the present. In his treatise "Rhetoric", Aristotle systematised the principles of rhetorical art, considering the means of persuasion (ethos, logos, pathos) and the structure of argumentation. This became the basis for teaching rhetoric at ancient, medieval, and Renaissance universities. During the medieval period, Aristotle's works were adapted by Scholastics, such as Thomas Aquinas, who integrated his logic and metaphysics into Christian teaching. Aristotle's philosophy became the basis for the

development of theology and natural science in the Western tradition, and his treatises on nature, biology, and physics became the starting point for the research of scholars such as Leonardo da Vinci and Galileo Galilei.

One of the vital features of this period was the decline in the cultural hegemony of Athens, which was previously the centre of intellectual life. The process of updating genres in Greek literature of this period took place against the background of changes in social and political life. The emergence of many new states and cities, which were often multinational, required the adaptation of literary forms to new conditions. The prose novel that emerged during this period was a reflection of these changes. It allowed for the disclosure of complex plots, multi-layered characters, and social conflicts that were impossible in traditional epic or lyrical forms. The change in the cultural landscape contributed to the emergence of new literary forms that reflected the zeitgeist and new social needs. The mixture of cultures and languages, which is typical of the Hellenistic period, contributed to the development of polyphony in literature. There was an enrichment of literary genres through interaction with various cultural traditions, which led to the emergence of works that could meet the aesthetic needs of a wide audience.

### **Evolution of genre structures and literary techniques in Latin literature**

Roman literature, developed under the substantial influence of the Greeks, brought new genre forms and shades. The poetic works of Virgil, Horace, and Ovid continued Greek traditions, adding new elements that corresponded to Roman cultural and political realities. Horace noted that "harsh and proud Rome in the struggle for world domination bowed its head before the great Greek culture". This quote highlights the Romans' recognition of Greece's cultural superiority and their willingness to accept and adapt the Greek legacy for their own

needs. This process was not just mechanical borrowing but a creative reinterpretation that enriched Roman culture. In the context of ancient literature, the Romans borrowed many aspects of Greek literature, including genres, stylistics, themes, and even mythological subjects. For example, Roman poets such as Virgil and Horace imitated Greek predecessors, particularly Homer. Virgil's "Aeneid" directly imitates the style and structure of Homer's epics but introduces Roman elements that reflect Roman identity and political ideology (Virgil, n.d.). Roman comedy also greatly influenced Greek drama. For example, Plautus' comedies, such as *Maillinaria* and *Amphitryon*, show the influence of the Greek new comedy of Menander, but with Roman social and cultural accents. Plautus used bright Roman humour and juicy Latin, which made his works unique and accessible to a Roman audience. In addition, Horace combined Greek poetic forms with Roman themes in his Odes and Epistles, creating a new synthesis of culture. His works demonstrate how Roman authors not only imitated Greek models but also developed them, adding their own elements and introducing innovative approaches. Borrowing from Eastern culture also played a substantial role in shaping Roman literature. For example, Seneca's philosophical writings demonstrate the influence of stoicism, which came from the Greek School of philosophy but simultaneously included Roman values and ethics. This contributed to the formation of a unique Roman philosophical tradition. Roman literature, enriched with Greek and oriental elements, became the foundation for the further development of Western literature. Roman authors had a substantial influence on the European literary tradition, especially during the Renaissance when their works were revived and reinterpreted by Humanists.

Several important stages occurred during the formation of Roman literature, each of which played an essential role in the formation of Roman cultural identity. The first of these

stages, the Republic period, ends during the civil wars. This period is extremely important for understanding the initial stages of the development of Roman literature because it was at this time that the foundations of genres and literary traditions were laid, which later determined the further development of the literary process in Rome. Among the first tragic poets, Livius Andronicus, Naevius, and Ennius should be mentioned. Livius Andronicus, Greek in origin, is considered the founder of Roman tragedy. He adapted Greek dramas for the Roman stage, making them more accessible to Roman audiences. Naevius and Ennius continued this tradition by introducing their own innovations and expanding the themes of tragedies. Pacuvius, a representative of the later period, added new forms and approaches to the genre, which made the Roman tragedy more distinctive and different from its Greek prototype. The comedy genre is also undergoing substantial development at this time. Plautus created numerous comedies that were distinguished by bright Roman humour and saturated Latin. His works, such as *Amphitryon* and *Maillinaria*, reflect the social and everyday realities of Roman society while imitating Greek models. Epic poetry also found its place in the literary canon of the Republican period. Livius Andronicus and Naevius were among the first authors to turn to the epic. Livius Andronicus translated Homer's *Odyssey* into Latin, an important step in introducing the Romans to the Greek literary legacy. Naevius wrote the *Bellum Punicum* epic, dedicated to the Punic Wars, reflecting the heroism and military exploits of the Romans. Ennius, the author of the epic work "Annales", substantially expanded the theme and scope of the Roman epic, combining historical events with mythological plots.

The satire genre also developed during the Republican period, gaining popularity thanks to Lucilius. Lucilius created the satire as a small incriminating work that criticised social vices and human shortcomings. His satire was sharp

and witty, reflecting the political and social realities of the time. Lucilius laid the foundations for the further development of satire in Roman literature, influencing authors such as Horace and Juvenal (Smart, 2004). Historiography also began to gain momentum during this period. Marcus Porcius Cato was one of the first Roman historians to write *Origines*, the first history of Rome in Latin. Cato sought to preserve and pass on to the next generations the historical memory of Rome's past, focusing on substantial events and figures. His works not only laid the foundations of Roman historiography but also influenced the further development of historical thought in Rome. Thus, the period of the Republic became the time of formation and formation of the main genres of Roman literature. These genres, adapted from Greek samples and enriched with Roman elements, became the foundation for the further development of the Roman literary tradition. Tragedy, comedy, epic, satire, and historiography – all these genres have found their place in Roman culture, contributing to its richness and diversity.

The next key stage in the development of Roman literature was the so-called “golden age”, which occurred during Emperor Augustus's reign. At this time, a variety of prose genres flourished, in particular, public speaking, historical, and scientific prose. The development of oratorical prose in the “golden age” of Roman literature is most clearly represented by the work of Cicero. Cicero was an outstanding speaker, philosopher, and politician who wrote numerous speeches, treatises, and letters. His oratorical skills influenced the development of rhetoric not only in Rome but throughout Western Europe. Cicero used his speeches for political purposes, defending the interests of the Republic and criticising his political opponents. His works, such as “*De Officiis*” and “*De Oratore*”, became classic examples of Roman rhetoric. The poetry of the “golden age” of Roman literature also reached its peak, represented by the work of numerous outstanding poets.

Catullus, one of the most famous representatives of the Neoterics, brought a new style to Roman poetry, marked by intimacy and personal themes (Lee, 2008). His poems are characterised by elegance, grace, and emotional depth. Tibullus, Propertius, and Ovid developed the elegy genre, addressing themes of love, nature, and personal experiences. Their works are noted for their lyricism and emotionality, in particular, Ovid in his “*Metamorphoses*” and “*Amores*” impresses with a wealth of imagination and poetic skill.

Virgil created a work that became the basis for the national epic of Rome. His poem, which tells about the travels of Aeneas, the founder of the Roman people, is marked by high style and patriotic pathos. Virgil masterfully combined Homeric tradition with Roman ideals, creating a masterpiece that became a model for subsequent generations. The work of Horace, a Roman poet of the Augustus era, is an outstanding example of small lyrical genres. His literary legacy includes various forms: satires, odes, epods, and epistles. Almost all of his works have come down to the present, including two books of satires, one book of epods, four books of odes, the Jubilee Hymn, and two books of epistles. Horace's “*Odes*” has become a classic example of Latin lyrics, where the poet celebrates the beauty of nature, friendship, love, and life's joys. His poetry is marked by a deep sense and refined aesthetic, which makes it substantial in the context of Roman literature. Horace, in his odes, masterfully combines personal experiences with mythological and historical motifs, creating a holistic image of an artistic chronotype. Horace's satires, which also occupy a substantial place in his work, are marked by sharp social criticism. He used the satirical form to ridicule the moral and social vices of his time while demonstrating his sharp mind and subtle humour. The epods, or “*lyrical poems*” that are part of one of his books, also showcase a variety of themes and motivations, from personal reflections to social commentary. This form

allowed Horace to experiment with poetic structure and content, which contributed to his reputation as an innovator in Roman poetry. Thus, Horace's work is multi-faceted and deep, marked by the skilful use of various lyrical genres.

Ovid, an outstanding poet of the "golden age" of Roman literature, gained fame for his elegies and mythological poems. His work "Metamorphoses" is a large-scale epic canvas that covers mythological subjects from the creation of the world to the deification of Caesar. This poem, laid out in hexameter and divided into 15 books, includes more than 200 mythological stories that Ovid masterfully intertwines, creating vivid images and touching narratives. One of Ovid's most important contributions to Roman literature is his innovative approach to the elegy genre. He introduced a new tone in it, which included irony, giving the Elegy a rhetorical expressiveness. Ovid's *Metamorphoses* are marked by a variety of themes, as the poet uses myths and legends to explore human emotions and relationships. He uses a variety of rhetorical techniques and poetic means, which makes his works not only rich in content but also stylistically perfect. His influence on the further development of Roman literature and the European literary tradition as a whole is undeniable, as his innovative approach to poetic form and content opened up new horizons for future generations of writers.

Thus, the "golden age" of Roman literature became a period of exceptional flourishing of various genres, each of which underwent substantial development and reached a high level of skill. This period not only laid the foundation for the further development of Roman literature but also substantially influenced the literary traditions of Western Europe, becoming a source of inspiration for many generations of writers and poets. The silver age of Roman literature is characterised by the development and diversity of epic genres. During this period, historical epics became popular, in particular, Lucian's works, which focus on historical events

and personalities, giving them an epic scale. The didactic epic presented by Manilius is marked by the desire to convey knowledge and teach the reader through a poetic form (Volk, 2002). This genre combines poetic style with scientific or philosophical themes, often explaining natural phenomena or human behaviour. An important phenomenon in the literature of this period is the development of tragedy, especially due to Seneca, who made a substantial contribution to Roman drama. His tragedies are marked by deep psychologism and philosophical reflections on human nature and fate. The novel, as a new literary genre, is represented by authors such as Petronius and Apuleius, who have created works that combine fantasy, satire, and realistic descriptions of everyday life.

The period of decline of Roman literature began after the death of Emperor Trajan and lasted until the fall of the Roman Empire. This time was characterised by a decline in political stability and the gradual collapse of Roman society, which could not but affect the literary process. The poetry of this period is marked by the work of authors such as Ausonius and Claudian, whose works show a combination of classical forms with new themes and motifs that reflect changing social realities. The epic continues to develop, in particular, in the work of Rutilius Claudius Namatianus, who is known for his poems that combine historical and personal elements, creating a unique literary style. Oratorical prose is represented by authors such as Symmachus, who used his skills to influence political processes and protect the interests of the Roman aristocracy. The philosophical thought of this period is marked by the works of Ammianus and Boethius, who tried to understand the changes taking place in society and find answers to complex moral and ethical questions.

Thus, the development of Roman literature took place through several key stages, each of which made its own unique contribution to the formation of the literary tradition. From the Republic period to late antiquity, Roman

literature evolved, enriched with new genres, themes, and styles that reflected changes in Rome's social and cultural life.

### **Synergetic influence of ancient Greek and Latin literatures on the formation of literary traditions**

Ancient Greek and Roman literatures are closely intertwined with other areas of the intellectual and cultural life of the ancient world. This is due to the harmonious combination of various forms of spiritual activity of a person within the framework of a single worldview of antiquity. Greek literature shows an indissoluble connection with the religious beliefs and mythological ideas of the ancient Greeks. The works of Homer and ancient Greek playwrights reflect the pantheon of Olympian gods, and oratory in Athens was closely associated with judicial rhetoric and political discussions. Similar trends are observed in Roman literature. The works of Virgil, Horace, Ovid uncover religious and mythological motifs. Therewith, Cicero's oratorical prose is combined with philosophical reflections on morality, ethics, and politics.

Thus, Homer's epic not only entertained but also served an educational function, conveying knowledge about history, culture, and moral values. The Greek tragedy, represented by the works of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, reflected deep religious and philosophical questions, considering the fate of man in a world ruled by the gods. These works entertained and also served as a means for public discussion of moral and political issues. The Aristophanes comedy, on the other hand, used humour and satire to criticise the political and social institutions of its time. His works often ridiculed famous politicians, philosophers, and social phenomena, which made them not only entertaining but also influential in shaping public opinion. After a period of classical flourishing, ancient literature began to gradually become a part of leisure activities. In late antiquity, literary works increasingly acquired

an entertaining character, although their connection with religion, philosophy, and morality remained substantial.

Ancient literature had a substantial impact on the development of Christian literature. Cultural exchange between Greece and Rome contributed to the formation of a rich literary legacy, which became the basis for further literary transformations. Greek and Roman literary traditions were not only preserved but also integrated into new religious contexts, creating unique forms of Christian literature. This fusion of cultural traditions with new religious ideas became an important factor in the development of medieval literature. Saint Augustine played a critical role in this process. His works, such as *Confessions* and *The City of God*, are examples of combining classical genre forms with Christian themes. Saint Augustine used rhetorical techniques borrowed from ancient literature to express his religious ideas, which demonstrates the profound influence of ancient culture on his work. His works became the basis for the further development of Christian literature, in particular, medieval scholasticism.

However, along with the adaptation of classical forms, Christian literature has undergone substantial changes. With the development of medieval literature, its social importance decreased, and literature increasingly became a means of entertainment. This is reflected in the growing popularity of everyday and entertainment themes in all genres of literature, including epic, lyric, and drama. This development of literature was reflected in the works of medieval authors, who often turned to everyday life and used literature as a means of entertainment. Greek literature demonstrated the evolution of genres that reflected the social and political changes of society at that time. In the classical period, philosophy and literature were closely related, as evidenced by the works of philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle. Aristotle, in his treatises "Poetics" and "Rhetoric",

classified the main literary genera and genres that were of fundamental importance for the further development of literary studies. This classification remains relevant today, serving as the basis for modern literary research. Greek lyrics, represented by the works of poets such as Sappho and Archilochos, addressed individual experiences that were different from epic poems that described heroic deeds. This shift in the focus of literary works reflected a change in public priorities and interests.

It was identified that Greek and Roman literatures had close ties, which was manifested in borrowing and adapting genre forms. Roman literature, which developed under the substantial influence of Greece, also introduced important innovations and developed new genres. One such genre was a comedy developed by Plautus, which was marked by bright Roman humour and rich and expressive Latin. Plautus created the first national Roman comedies that reflected the daily life of the Romans and had a substantial impact on the further development of the theatre. Another important contribution to Roman literature was the satire genre initiated by Lucilius. Satire, as a small revealing work, became a means of criticising social vices and political shortcomings, which later influenced the European literary tradition. Another important genre of Roman literature was satire, founded by Lucilius. Lucilius created the genre of satire as a small incriminating work directed against social vices and defects. His satires, written in hexameter, combined sharp

criticism and humour. Lucilius influenced the further development of satire, particularly the work of authors such as Horace and Juvenal (Juvenal, 2011). This genre inspired later authors, such as Jonathan Swift, to create satirical works that ridiculed social vices.

Ancient literature, divided into Greek and Roman stages, had a substantial impact on the development of literary genres in different cultures. An important aspect of ancient literature is its close connection with philosophy and science. Aristotle's philosophical works, such as *Poetics* and *Rhetoric*, not only classified literary genera and genres but also laid the foundations for the further development of literary studies. Aristotle, for example, in his "*Poetics*", systematised genres into epic, lyrics, and drama, which influenced theoretical approaches to literary creativity. Its classification remains relevant today, serving as the basis for further literature research. The influence of ancient literature is manifested not only in literary works but also in the broad sense of the term "literature". In the ancient world, literature covered all forms of writing, including history, philosophy, and various sciences, which is much broader than the modern understanding of the term. For example, the historical works of Herodotus and Thucydides not only documented events but also used literary techniques such as descriptions, dialogues, and motif analysis, which increased their aesthetic value (Kalantaevska, 2017). The genres of antiquity can be depicted graphically as follows (Table 1).

**Table 1.** *Main genres of Greek and Roman literature*

Genre	Brief description	Representatives
Epic	A long heroic work describing the adventures of heroes and gods	Homer, Virgil
Lyrics	Poetic works that express personal feelings and emotions	Sappho, Alcaeus, Archilochos, Catullus, Tibullus, Propertius
Drama	Theatrical works that involve performing on stage	Sophocles, Euripides, Aeschylus, Aristophanes
Tragedy	A genre of drama depicting serious, often fatal conflicts	Sophocles, Euripides, Aeschylus

Table 2. Continued

Genre	Brief description	Representatives
Comedy	A genre of drama that ridicules human shortcomings and situations	Aristophanes
Philosophical prose	Works that discuss philosophical issues	Plato, Cicero, Seneca, Aristotle
Public speaking	Speeches aimed at convincing listeners	Cicero, Demosthenes
Satire	Humorous works that criticise social vices and shortcomings	Lucilius, Juvenal, Horace
Elegy	Poetic works that express sadness or melancholy	Tibullus, Ovid
Epigram	A short poem with a sharp, often satirical meaning	Martial
Didactic epic	Poetic works that teach or explain certain knowledge	Lucretius, Manilius
Pastoral poetry	Poetic works depicting idealised rural life	Virgil
Prose novels	Narrative works in prose that often have an adventure or love character.	Apuleius, Petronius
Lyrical drama	A combination of dramatic structure and lyrical elements	Euripides
Hymns	Poetic works in honour of gods, heroes, or outstanding events	Homer, Callimachus
Parody	Works that imitate and ridicule other literary genres or works	Aristophanes
Historical prose	Descriptions of historical events	Herodotus, Thucydides, Cato

**Source:** compiled by the author

Despite the unity of ancient culture, each stage has its own unique features, which substantially influenced various aspects of the world literary tradition. The Roman stage was more influential on political, religious thinking, philosophical and legal views, and the literature and art of Western Europe. On the contrary, the cultural tradition of Eastern Europe, including Ukraine, was more influenced by Greek literature through the mediation of Byzantium. Greek literature, which laid the foundations of many literary genres, substantially influenced the formation of the world's literary legacy. Homer's epics, such as "Iliad" and "Odyssey", became a model for epic works in different cultures. For example, Virgil, a Roman poet, created his "Aeneid" by imitating Greek patterns but adapting them to the Roman context and ideology. Virgil used the structure and themes of Greek epics to glorify Roman greatness and heroism, which became the basis of the Roman national epic. This influence can be traced in works of medieval literature, such as "Divine Comedy" by Dante Alighieri, where structural elements and heroic content echo ancient epics (Kozlyk, 2020).

According to A. Snizhko (2023), in both Greek and Roman literature, both cultures grew up in similar socio-historical settings, which influenced their literary traditions. This is also confirmed by this study, which examines the influence of socio-political conditions on the formation of literary genres. Both literatures focus on human earthly needs, reflecting their practicality and realism. The study also notes that Greek and Roman literary genres reflect real events and problems in society. In addition, A. Snizhko highlights specific features of Roman literature, such as the late beginning of development and the use of ready-made results of Greek literature to create its own mature literature. This study also indicates that Roman literature often adapted and reinterpreted Greek models, but the author also examines in detail the unique aspects of Roman literature, such as the development of specific genres (satire, epigram, fable). Comparing the conclusions of T. Luchuk (2011) with the results of the study, an important general aspect can be noted. T. Luchuk emphasises avoiding the dualistic juxtaposition of literature and society,

the individual and society, elite culture and folk culture, as well as the creation and perception of cultural texts. This is consistent with the focus of the study on the importance of socio-historical context in the analysis of literary works. Ultimately, the study confirms that ancient literature was formed under the influence of the socio-political conditions of its time, and the relationship of literary genres with social realities and ideas is an important component of the analysis of ancient texts.

Comparing the paper of N. Vladimirova (2024) with the study conducted identifies several key aspects that complement and refine the understanding of the influence of Greek theatre on the development of the theatrical culture of Ancient Rome. N. Vladimirova emphasises the importance of Greek theatre for the Romans, stressing that after a series of victorious Wars, The Romans not only encountered Hellenistic culture but also actively integrated it into their social life, including science, philosophy, and theatre. An important aspect that the author focuses on is the difference in the religious meanings of the theatre between Greece and Rome. In Greece, theatrical performances had deeply religious roots and were an organic part of the cult, while in Rome, theatre was initially more secular in nature. Roman performances were intended to entertain wealthy citizens, the authorities, and the free population, not for religious ceremonies. This indicates substantial cultural differences in the perception and functioning of theatre in both civilisations. The study adds a broader perspective to this picture, considering not only the influence of Greek theatre but also the development of Roman drama in the context of general literary and cultural evolution. The contributions of Roman playwrights such as Plautus and Seneca, who adapted Greek models to Roman conditions, creating unique works that reflected Roman society and its values, were analysed. That is, both studies emphasise the importance of Greek influence on

Roman theatre culture but highlight different aspects of this influence.

Thus, the study confirms the importance of ancient literary genres for the further development of world literature. Greek and Roman genres not only reflected the social and political realities of their time but also laid the foundations for further literary traditions. The influence of philosophical and rhetorical works on literary theory underscores the importance of integrating literature with other scientific disciplines. The results are consistent with many previous studies but also open up new perspectives for further research in this area.

## Conclusions

The examination of literary genres in classical Greek and Latin literature revealed key similarities and differences between the two cultures and also showed how the cultural exchange between Greece and Rome influenced the development of literary creativity in antiquity. The main goal of the study was to review the evolution of genres, their specific features and relationships, which allowed gaining a new understanding of the literary processes of antiquity. Ancient literature, developing in close connection with philosophy and science, laid the foundations for many genres and literary forms. Its influence is still felt today, remaining the foundation for literary theory and practice. Authors of antiquity, from Homer to Aristotle, from Plautus to Lucretius, have created a rich literary legacy that continues to inspire and influence modern literature.

The study also identified some limitations, in particular, difficulties in translating ancient texts, which can cause variations in the interpretation and understanding of the original content. Due to the large volume of literary works of antiquity, the study focused mainly on key authors and works, which may leave lesser-known authors or texts out of sight, although they may also have had a substantial impact on the development of literary genres. Several

areas are promising to further deepen research and fill in the existing gaps in the examination of genres of classical literature. Interdisciplinary approaches involving the methods of history, philosophy, cultural studies, and linguistics can help draw new conclusions in the analysis of literary genres through different approaches to problem research. The analysis of lesser-known authors and works will expand our understanding of the diversity of genre forms and literary creativity of antiquity. These approaches

will contribute to a deeper understanding of the literary processes of antiquity and their role in the historical context, opening up new perspectives for further research in this area.

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### Conflict of Interest

The author of this study declares no conflict of interest.

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## **Літературні жанри у класичній грецькій та латинській літературі**

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**Анотація.** Метою дослідження було поглиблене вивчення різноманіття жанрових форм у класичній грецькій та латинській літературах та аналіз впливу культурних, соціальних та політичних реалій на ці жанри. Дослідження охоплює аналіз основних літературних жанрів, таких як епос, трагедія, комедія, лірика, сатира та елегія, з особливим акцентом на вплив грецьких зразків на розвиток латинської літератури. У ході дослідження проаналізовано твори таких видатних авторів, як Гомер, Есхіл, Софокл, Евріпід, Віргілій, Горацій та інших канонічних творців античної літератури. Отримані результати показують унікальні риси кожного жанру та їхню еволюцію під впливом історичних та соціальних змін. Зокрема, виявлено, що грецькі трагедії та комедії мали значний вплив на формування римської драми, тоді як римські поети, такі як Віргілій та Горацій, розвинули жанри епосу та лірики, враховуючи грецькі традиції, але створюючи при цьому власні унікальні твори. Висновки дослідження підкреслюють важливість культурного обміну між Грецією та Римом, який сприяв формуванню багатого літературного спадку, що вплинув на подальший розвиток світової літератури. Отримані результати також вказують на те, що взаємодія між різними жанрами у грецькій та латинській літературах відбувалася у відповідь на зміни в суспільстві та політичних умовах, що сприяло їхньому динамічному розвитку та адаптації до нових реалій. Це дослідження робить внесок у розуміння специфіки жанрових форм античної літератури та їхньої ролі в історичному контексті, відкриваючи нові перспективи для подальших досліджень

**Ключові слова:** античність; епос; драма; лірика; сатира; елегія