

SOCIAL SATIRE IN THE MOIST VON LIPWIG CYCLE BY TERRY PRATCHETT: CRITICS AND METHODOLOGY

This paper explores how social satire critiques bureaucracy and the economic system in Terry Pratchett's Moist von Lipwig novels, a cycle inside *the Discworld* series. Pratchett employs humor, irony, and exaggeration to expose the absurdities of governance and capitalism, using fantasy as a lens through which real-world issues are scrutinized. By analyzing Moist von Lipwig cycle, this study will reveal the structural flaws within bureaucratic and economic systems, highlight the role of satire in challenging social norms, and demonstrate that Pratchett's work transcends comedy to provide a nuanced reflection on contemporary socioeconomic realities.

There is a large body of literature analyzing Terry Pratchett's work, particularly in relation to satire. Several scholars have examined his use of humor as a form of social criticism. For instance, Kjellberg's "Comedy Gold: How Humor is Used as Social Criticism in Terry Pratchett's *Making Money*" (2014) [7] explores the role of humor in critiquing economic systems, analyzing how Pratchett satirizes financial institutions and monetary policies. Britton's "Thoughtful Laughter: Fantasy and Satire as Social Commentary in Terry Pratchett's *Discworld*" (2018) [1] broadens the scope, investigating satire as a tool for social critique within the entire series. More recently, Dahlbacka's "Authenticity in Terry Pratchett's *Discworld*" (2023) [2] delves into how Pratchett balances fantasy elements with sociopolitical commentary, underscoring the interplay between imaginative storytelling and real-world critique. While these studies provide valuable insights, they do not specifically address the interplay of satire and regime criticism in the Moist von Lipwig novels, leaving a significant gap in existing scholarship.

To fill this gap, this research applies discourse analysis inspired by Norman Fairclough's sociolinguistic methods [3], which examine the relationship between language, power, and ideology. Additionally, close reading techniques influenced by Gérard Genette's narrative theory [5] are employed to dissect Pratchett's structural and stylistic choices. Linda Hutcheon's work on irony and parody [6] further supports the analysis of Pratchett's satirical techniques, providing a framework for understanding how humor functions as a subversive mechanism in his narratives.

The theoretical foundation of this research draws from multiple perspectives on power and institutions. Michel Foucault's theory of power offers insights into how authority operates within bureaucratic structures, revealing how power is both maintained and challenged through discourse [4]. Max Weber's analysis of bureaucracy [9] provides a lens through which to examine the inefficiencies and absurdities that Pratchett highlights in his depiction of government institutions. Karl Marx's critique of capitalism [8] informs the analysis of economic structures in the novels, helping to deconstruct Pratchett's portrayal of financial corruption and corporate greed.

While Pratchett's broader critique of power and institutions has been widely discussed, the unique role of satire in criticizing bureaucracy and capitalism in the Moist von Lipwig novels remains relatively unexplored. This study aims to position these novels

within the larger discourse on satire and governance, demonstrating how Pratchett's work engages with contemporary economic and political debates.

Ultimately, this paper argues that fantasy literature should not be dismissed as mere escapism, but rather recognized as a powerful medium for social critique. Through his satirical treatment of bureaucracy and capitalism, Pratchett challenges dominant socioeconomic structures, encouraging readers to reflect on the absurdities and contradictions within their own societies. By framing Discworld as a site of critical engagement, this study highlights the enduring relevance of Pratchett's satire and its contribution to discussions on governance, economic policy, and institutional reform.

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