



ENGLISH LITERATURE OF THE 19TH-20TH CENTURIES AND THE FORMATION OF THE IMAGE OF CHILDHOOD

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Annotation. *The article reveals the process of development of English children's literature in the 19th-20th centuries on a scientific and theoretical basis. The study examines the literary interpretation of the concept of childhood, the formation of the image of childhood as an independent aesthetic phenomenon in the era of Romanticism, as well as the emergence of the fantasy genre into a leading position in the 19th-20th century. Using the example of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and J.K. Rowling. J. K. Rowling substantiates the importance of the fantasy genre in the formation of children's thinking, moral values and aesthetic taste. The article reveals the role and importance of English children's literature in the global literary process.*

Key words: *English children's literature, the concept of childhood, fantasy genre, romanticism, J.R.R. Tolkien, K.S. Lewis, J.K. Rowling.*

INTRODUCTION

There are many similarities in the oral folk art of different peoples, even in countries that are very far from each other. In the oldest literary monuments of many peoples, because in myths and legends, fairy tales, similarities are obvious: this aspect is more reflected in the hymns, which reveal heroism, intelligence, nobility, kindness, beauty, which are considered the highest representations of man and his glorious, honorable duty on earth.

Scientists rightly assert that myths served as a kind of source in the development of scientific imagination, in the formation of philosophy, literature, museum art, sculpture, architecture, music, and theater. The oldest fairy tales describe various folk rituals, customs and tribal traditions. Or you can observe their connection with the plot (fact) of primitive myths. Over time, with the development of human society, fairy tales, myths and legends were "absorbed" by children (or, as adults once offered kids the most beautiful things they had ever created for themselves), and later, along with the brightest examples of world literature, they were "absorbed" by such works as "Robinson Crusoe", "Gulliver", "Gargantua.

The work of the Romantics of the 19th century revealed to a wide readership the oral folk art and the national literary origins of each nation. In particular, this had an impact on the development of children's literature, including the impetus for the appearance of collections of literary and folk tales by the brothers Grimm, H.K.Andersen and many other authors. As a result, young readers have now begun to get their hands on books and artistic images reflecting the lives of their peers. Thus, children's literature became an independent branch of "big" literature. Romanticism revealed a period of self-awareness in a person's spiritual development, which unfolds in childhood. In the works of romantics, childhood is



interpreted as an invaluable inner world of a person, as well as a period that enchants adults with its deep essence and wonders. Maturity is highlighted as a period when the most sincere and childlike innocence is lost. It should be recognized that Romanticism not only discovered childhood, but also bequeathed it to man as a model of the purest perfection and the embodiment of compassion.

With the development of realistic principles and the deepening of psychology, a holistic, multifaceted image of childhood has been established in children's literature. In it, the writers revealed the beginnings of human development, reaching the depths of the character of a young man, gradually penetrating into the complexities of the child's inner world, his formation as a person in proportion and contradictions, in the struggle of light and dark and sad moments of life. The main tool that determines the work of the best writers is faith in childhood, respect for an adult, and the ability to see opportunities, sources, and key factors of development in it.

The 20th century, with its revolutions, wars, acute social problems, acute conflicts, and political views, has also changed children's literature. The horrors of the world have penetrated the pages of the little reader's creativity. Their characters are social creatures who stand alone against cruelty towards people, defend their right to friendship and love, and urge adults to understand them. The problems of time have penetrated not only into realistic works, but also into fairy tales. Although they deviate a little from genre features, they still hope for the victory of good over evil and wage a relentless spiritual struggle along the way. Children's literature today, according to its genre and thematic features, has managed to form in a diverse and peculiar way. The most famous writers of the world dedicated their talents and activities to him. British children's literature has never been literature for children and has always been used as a treasure trove of metaphors and images for adult literature.

Arthur Conan Doyle is the founder of the detective genre, the author of several science fiction, historical works, and many short stories, novellas, and poems. He created the image of Sherlock Holmes, a great detective who, with the help of his unsurpassed talent, solved the most complicated crimes and became a defender of victims and the oppressed. For the first time, Sherlock Holmes appears in "Sketches in Crimson Tones". Holmes and Dr. Watson are the heroes of his subsequent works, such as "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", "The Hound of the Baskervilles", "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" and "Incidents from the judicial practice of Sherlock Holmes". Sherlock Holmes, without any hesitation, can be attributed to the number of literary heroes that everyone knows. One of Conan Doyle's biographers is H. Pearson said: "In modern English literature, there are only three fictional characters who are as firmly rooted in the hearts and minds



of ordinary people as Holmes: these three characters are Romeo, Sherlock and Robinson Crusoe".

There is also evidence that when the writer Keziah came and tried to quietly kill his also-murdered hero, he was buried in letters written with protest and excitement, and Conan Doyle had no choice but to revive his hero and bring him back to life. Conan Doyle also wrote several talented science-fiction works, which focus on the supernatural discoveries of scientists. In addition to the famous detective story, he wrote about seventy novels that he considered more important than the Sherlock Holmes stories ("Stone's Relatives", "Death of Arthur", "The White Squadron", etc. Conan Doyle entered the history of literature and teenage literary reading primarily as the creator of the detective genre.

Joseph Rudyard Kipling is a vivid and rather controversial figure in English literature. Critics have spoken a lot about his pursuit of the ideal of establishing military honor, power and order. His ideas are almost simple and unnatural: the British Empire is above all, and the British themselves are the highest nation in the world, imposing on other peoples to live the same way they do, based on their higher laws. Kipling's work captivated readers with its charm, clarity and fluency of language, vivacity and boldness of worldview, as well as healthy optimistic characters.

Kipling already had children's books, such as "Brave Captains" and the two-volume "The Jungle Book"; but it was the collection "Just Fairy Tales" that brought him real fame. It is worth noting that Kipling continued the traditions of English children's literature, he drew illustrations for fairy tales and wrote comments on them. They will be able to appreciate it. It is worth noting that Kipling continued the traditions of English children's literature, he drew illustrations for fairy tales and wrote comments on them. In addition to animalistic fairy tales, Kipling also wrote in the fantasy genre. He can be called one of the founders of the fantasy genre, and the heroes of his two-volume works, such as "The Gift of the Fairies", are the Shakespearean character Pak.

Sometimes Kipling refers readers to the continuation of the story in order to interest them. The uniqueness of the work is determined by Kipling's direct communication with the reader, which creates the impression that the story is being told as if you are sitting in a history lesson and taking a trip to that era. Almost all of Kipling's works begin with a poetic prologue, which logically repeats the content of the prose work that is to be presented.

English children's literature is considered one of the important stages in the development of world literature. The end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries marked a new stage in the development of English children's literature, as during this period children's literature sought not only educational and didactic goals, but also a deeper reflection of children's worldview and emotional world.



During this period, the fantasy genre appeared in new forms in children's literature. For example: Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia series has created an amazing fantasy universe aimed at children. J.R. Tolkien drew young readers into fantasy worlds with his works "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings." According to the researchers, the 18th century was marked by the formation of a new image of childhood, increased interest in the child in all spheres of culture, clearer chronological and conscious separation of the child and adult worlds, as well as recognition of the socio-psychological significance of childhood.

Existing children's books are often intended not only for children, but also as a program for their caregivers and teachers. The essence of childhood is also changing in this process.: "This is an age that needs to be overcome and changed... Childhood in a child is an obstacle. In the Puritan tradition, it is difficult; in the Locke tradition, it is easy" [3, 16].

Romantics believed that childhood was not just a preparatory period or an excessive retreat from life, but rather a completely independent, unique, important and priceless world. If the criterion for classicism was growing up, and childhood was a departure from it, then romantics are characterized mainly by a different ratio of young people: growing up is a painful period, and childhood is an ideal period of human life. Let us recall the Romantics' interest in history, especially folklore. It is not for nothing that fairy tales dating back to folk art (Arnim and Brentano, the brothers Grimm, Gauf, Andersen, etc.) have become one of the most popular genres of this genre among artists. Thus, in the aesthetics of Romanticism, childhood — not only the childhood of an individual, but also the childhood of humanity as a whole — begins to acquire great importance [1, 98].

With the development of literature, it increasingly emphasized the inner maturity of a mature personality, especially at the beginning of the 19th century. I.S. Cohn writes that this "civilization of the world" began to develop rapidly, especially in the 17th–18th centuries, and manifested itself in many areas of human life. Speaking from the point of view of religion, in Protestantism, communication with God becomes more individual and personal, and in Pietism of the 17th–18th centuries, God becomes an individual interlocutor and even a friend.

Significant changes have taken place in English children's literature since the middle of the 20th century. Under the influence of psychological and parenting research, children's literature has become more diverse and has begun to address complex topics (friendship, love, mistakes, and life challenges). If we talk about the children's literature of England in the 20th century, we can see that the fantasy genre significantly prevailed over other genres. Fantasy is a genre of fantasy literature in which, according to the requirements of the genre, events take place in a magical world completely different from the "real" world in which we live. This "secondary" world has its own rules, which do not correspond to the usual logic



and laws of nature. "It's difference from science fiction is that in the fantasy genre, the laws of the world in which events take place are not explained scientifically" [8, 421].

The changing of the seasons and various fantasy kingdoms, each with its own story, is a common occurrence in the fantasy world. Characters can enter this fictional world in different ways: falling asleep or in a dream, falling into a rabbit's nest ("Alice in Wonderland" – "Alice in Wonderland"), through a closet ("Kingdom of Narnia" – "The Chronicles of Narnia"), climbing a beanstalk ("Jack and the Beanstalk".) or stuck in a tornado well, etc. Also, this extraordinary world is an invisible, hidden part of the everyday world, which can also be distinguished by the presence of magical and supernatural powers in it (the ability to predict the future, talk to animals and spirits, change from human form into the form of another being, etc.). In a fantasy universe designed for the peculiarities of this direction, there are also unusual creatures (talking objects and monsters, fantastic creatures, knights, witches, spellcasters, human monsters, elves, ghosts, dragons and other similar creatures). It should be noted that the fantasy genre has been formed over the long history of literature, as well as many of its internal genres, and the main subgenres characteristic of children's literature are: 1) fantasy about animals and toys; 2) fantasy about characters with extraordinary and mythical powers; 3) fantasy about epic; 4) fantasy based on humor; 5) fantasy depicting scary events [8, 421].

This genre of fiction, like other genres, is considered a good means of getting rid of the worries of everyday life, forgetting them and searching for different interpretations of life. It is worth noting that while some works in the fantasy genre are simply a sequence of incredible adventures, others also touch on the deepest philosophical aspects of life. As Pierce notes: "Fantasy allows those who write and read it to put the strongest ideas, characters, and events from the story into a different context to see how they will be exposed when their individual elements are changed" [2, 102].

"The best examples of the fantasy genre are considered one of the best ways to develop children's imagination and creative abilities. They also embody serious moral qualities: the struggle of good against evil, loyalty to friends, responsibility for decision-making, personal duty and responsibilities were the most frequent themes in fantasy works. It should be noted that the fantasy genre has a long history, the roots of which go back to Greco-Roman mythology. In particular, the early features of this genre are also evident in Homer's epic The Odyssey [8, 422].

The Old English epic poem "Beowulf", one of the medieval chivalric legends "the Legend of King Arthur", the tragicomedy "The Tempest" by Shakespeare, "Gulliver's Travels" Jonathan Swift (Gulliver's Travels, 1726), Lewis Carroll's



Alice in Wonderland The features of the fantasy genre in British literature are also centuries-old, formed during the arrival of” [2, 99].

"Fantasy as an independent genre of fantasy literature began to stand out in the 19th century thanks to the work of the Scottish writer George MacDonald. In his work "Fantasies: The Romance of Fairies," a young man goes to a fairyland, where he experiences various adventures and returns home. William Morris contributed to the further development of the genre with his epic poems and novels, which covered ancient and medieval themes. The typeface set created by writer Morris and the various decorations on the pages of the book have given the publication of fantasy novels a special publishing culture. In the 20th century, the tradition started by George MacDonald and Morris was continued by Edward Dancy. His novel "The King of Elfland's Daughter" is based on an ancient Celtic legend, which tells about the love of a king living on earth and the queen of the land of the dark elves. By the 1920s, the role of linguistic means in expressing fantastic reality had increased. "Linguist and teacher of ancient languages Eric Edison uses the Old English style in his work "The Worm of Ouroboros" (1922). Later, John Ronald Tolkien also supported his method, using Middle English to prove the "authenticity" of the "Middle-earth" world he created in his works. By the middle of the 20th century, the scope of the genre's features had expanded, and Tolkien's contribution to the literary process is invaluable here. His epic novels The Hobbit (1937) and The Lord of the Rings (1954-1955), depicting events taking place in a fictional world in the center of the Earth, became a powerful incentive for fantasy, as well as for writers of children's literature working in this genre. "These works determined the further path of development not only of children's literature, but also of the fantasy genre" [8, 423]. In 1997, the English writer J. K. Rowling published her fantasy novel Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. This work quickly gained immense popularity and attracted millions of readers around the world, becoming one of the most popular and translated works of children's literature. To date, the work has been translated into more than seventy-five languages of the world, including Uzbek, translated by Shokir Dolimov. The Harry Potter phenomenon has spread all over the world and has become popular. At a time when information technology and science were developing in the world, and children and teenagers were increasingly moving away from reading books, this work by J. K. Rowling brought children back to the magical world of books. Although works depicting such an event have also been created and presented to the public by fantasy writers such as Mary Frances Zembreno and Diana Wins Jones, none of them have received the same recognition from readers as the work of J.K. Rowling "ntesi" such as Mary Frances Zembreno and Diana Wins Jones, none of them has received the same recognition from readers as the work of J. K. Rowling" [2, 165]. Even at the end of the 20th century — beginning of the 21th



century, the fantasy genre, largely thanks to Rowling, continues to be one of the leading genres of children's literature.

By the end of the 20th century, English children's literature had gained worldwide importance. During this period, the works of English writers were translated into other languages and became popular among children all over the world.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it should be noted that English children's literature of the 20th century has reached a new level not only in its artistic level, but also in the richness and diversity of the world created for children. English children's literature has evolved along with the changing needs of children and cultural values, and the desire to create interesting and meaningful works for them continues today.

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