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**РОЛЬ ПРОТАГОНИСТА В ПРОИЗВЕДЕНИЯХ МАГИЧЕСКОГО
РЕАЛИЗМА****Корончик Виктория Геннадиевна**Севастопольский государственный университет
старший преподаватель, кафедра зарубежной филологии**Аннотация**

В статье рассматривается понятие протагониста и его роль в произведениях жанра магического реализма. Описываются и уточняются основные характеристики жанра магический реализм. Характерные признаки протагониста анализируются на примере произведений современных американских авторов.

Ключевые слова: персонаж, протагонист, магический реализм, реальное, нереальное.

THE ROLE OF PROTAGONIST IN MAGIC REALISM WORKS**Viktoriya V. Koronchik**Sevastopol State University
Senior lecturer
Foreign Philology Department**ABSTRACT**

The article specifies the term *protagonist* and its role in magic realism works. The main characteristics of the genre are described. The main peculiar features are analyzed in the novels written by modern American writers.

Keywords: character, protagonist, magic realism, real, unreal.

Introduction

The system of characters is one of the main notions in literary works analysis. The problem of characteristics, types and means of characters' creation are described in the articles of such researchers as M.M. Bahtin, L.O. Ginzburg, D.S. Lihachev, V.I. Tyupa and others [2].

There are many typologies of characters. Each researcher gives its own typology taking into consideration different characteristics.

The aim of the research

Nowadays the system of characters is researched by many scientists. However, the role of the main character, protagonist, is very important in magic realism works. In the article we are going to analyze different systems of characters and their functions in the works of magic realism.

Materials and methods of research

Materials of the research are the novels written by the modern American writers: Ransom Riggs "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children", G. Martin "Portraits of his Children", Chuck Palahniuk " Damned". The methods applied in the research are typological, sociological and theoretical poethics.

Having analyzed the typologies we defined some principles which were used by the researchers to determine the type of a character:

- 1) the way of depicting;
- 2) the match of static and dynamic in characters;
- 3) the place of action development;
- 4) the character position in the common system of characters or their roles in the text

[1].

In our article we are going to pay attention to the last principle. According to it the characters are divided into:

- 1) main characters;
- 2) secondary characters;
- 3) episodic or stage characters [2; 3].

The image of the main character (protagonist) should be described thoroughly because without it the plot is impossible for existence.

In the article the genre of magic realism is analyzed. Nowadays it is extremely popular in literature all over the world. One of the main characteristics that defines the genre is the combination of real events and unreal ones.

Unreal events or magic ones which are physically or historically impossible exist in the literary works as usual and ordinary ones.

Notwithstanding that the term "magic realism" appeared at the beginning of the XX century, the specific features of the genre haven't been researched fully.

However, there are some main characteristics which to our mind are essential for analysis of characters' system.

Firstly, there are two types of the worlds – real and unreal that is imagined by the author.

Two worlds are supposed to have specific characteristics of the characters. The monograph "Modern English Literature. Traditions and experiment" written by Lushnikova G.I. and Osadchaya T.Y. the typology of the characters is represented in such a way:

- 1) real characters corresponding the principles of the real narration;
- 2) unreal characters corresponding the principles of the unreal or magic narration (this group includes the characters having extraordinary powers; fantastic creatures imagined by the authors; spirits of the deceased; angels and so on);

3) real characters that have the ability to communicate with unreal characters. They can pass the border and come from the real world to the unreal one and vice versa [3; 70].

To specify the typology of the characters according to the principles of position in the system and the role in the text we are going to analyze some of magic realism genre written by modern American writers.

Firstly, we are going to discuss the system of the characters in the trilogy of modern American writer Ransom Riggs (born in 1979, Maryland, the USA).

R. Riggs became famous for his unusual hobby. He liked collecting photos of unusual people or events. Then he wrote a novel about people with extraordinary powers, "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" (2012) [6].

The novel has got both types of characters. There are real characters that belong to the real routine world. They are main character's parents.

The group of unreal characters is represented by *peculiar children*. They are characters that look like real people but have extraordinary powers such as levitation (Emma Bloom, a girl who can fly), dead recovery (Enoh O’Konnor), the ability to burn the items when touching them (Olivia Abrahos Elefanta); the ability to see prophetic dreams and some others [6].

This group also includes unreal characters imagined by the author such as:

- 1) hollows (evil creatures that fight with positive characters trying to capture the unreal world);
- 2) imbrines (positive creatures that are able to transform into a bird and can manipulate the so-called time loop);
- 3) beasts (wicked creatures that try to kill imbrines).

The main character belongs to the extra group of characters. On the one hand he is a real person, a teenager who has psychological problems. Jacob loses his beloved grandfather and is very sad about it. He thinks that his grandfather was killed by the evil creatures and wants to find them. At the same time he is the only person who is able to see unreal creatures and communicate with them.

Analyzing magic realism novels we come to the conclusion that the real character that has the ability to communicate with unreal characters and penetrate their world is the protagonist.

This character is devoted to its matter, like-minded people or allies. Moreover, he has got the extra power to see unreal characters. One more important detail is that protagonist is obsessed with the stated mission.

Taking into consideration the characteristic features of the analyzed genre we can make the conclusion that the existence of protagonist penetrating to the unreal world is the peculiar feature of magic realism genre.

In some novels the image of protagonist coincides with the real character type corresponding the realistic description. The novel written by the modern American writer George Martin (born in 1948, New Jersey, the USA) “The Portraits of His Children” (1985) a real character is a famous writer Richard Cartling gets unusual parcels [4].

The parcels are the portraits of the characters of his books. At night the portraits recover and turn into real people. They talk to his creator accusing him of their role.

This way Cartling passes from the group of real characters to the group of real characters having the ability to see unreal characters.

What is more, the novel shows the peculiar interpretation of the topic of the author’s role, creator’s responsibility for the world he imagined.

Revealing the topic of the life after death some authors also show the ability of the main characters to pass from the group of real characters to the group of unreal ones. The most vivid example of this topic is the novel “Damned” (2011) written by the famous American writer Chuck Palahniuk.

Charles Michael (Chuck) Palahniuk (born in 1962, Washington, the USA) is a modern American writer and a journalist. His first book “Fight Club” (1995) was at first rejected by the editor because of the detailed descriptions of the intimate parts of people’s lives. The protagonists of his books are usually marginal loners who try to find themselves in the world.

Chuck Palahniuk in his novel “Damned” describes the adventures of a thirteen year old girl who dies after drug overdose. She gets to the otherworld.

When Margaret Madison was alive she was very shy and hated her appearance. At the same time when she dies and gets up to the skies, she changes fully. In the new unreal world Madison finds a lot of friends, becomes a leader and reveals the features of her character which were hidden in the real routine world [5].

One of the essential characteristics of the representing of protagonist in magic realism works is the problem of choice. This problem appears when the protagonist decides how to exist later in the new world. The main character usually has got a problem whether to stay in the magic world or to come back to the old one. This problem is solved in the novels in different ways.

The analysis of magic realism works allows us to define the following types of characters according their roles in the text:

- 1) *protagonist* is a real character possessing extraordinary powers to penetrate the unreal world; magic realism genre loses its main characteristics without this character;
- 2) *secondary characters* that are usually unreal;
- 3) *episodic characters* that mainly correspond the characters of the real narrative.

Conclusion

Having analyzed some of magic realism novels written by modern American writers we come to the conclusion that one of the most essential features of magic realism genre is the existence of two worlds which defines the role of protagonist, the main character. Protagonist is usually the representative of the real world. However, he or she has got the extraordinary power to pass the border between the real world and unreal one. At the same time the main character has the ability to come to the unreal world, see the unreal characters and communicate with them.

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