

УДК 159.99

# РОЛЬ ХУДОЖЕСТВЕННЫХ ТЕКСТОВ В ОПРЕДЕЛЕНИИ ПОВЕДЕНИЯ ЛЮДЕЙ В КРИЗИСНЫХ СИТУАЦИЯХ

## Корончик Виктория Геннадиевна

Севастопольский государственный университет старший преподаватель кафедры зарубежной филологии

#### Аннотация

В статье анализируются понятия «кризисная ситуация» в рамках художественного текста. Автор приводит толкование термина исследователями-психологами. Данное понятие рассматривается в рамках направления магического реализма на примере произведения современного американского писателя Элис Сиболд «Любимые Кости».

**Ключевые слова:** кризисная ситуация, экстремальная ситуация, кризисная психология, магический реализм, категория, реальное, нереальное.

# ROLE OF THE ARTISTIC LITERATURE IN DEFINING PEOPLE'S BEHAVIOR IN CRISIS SITUATIONS

#### Viktoria V. Koronchik

Sevastopol State University Senior lecturer Foreign Philology Department

#### **ABSTRACT**

The article deals with the analysis of the term "crisis situation" according to artistic literary works. The author gives the definition of the term by researches-psychologists. The term is analyzed in terms of modern American writers Alice Sebold in her novel "Lovely Bones".

**Keywords:** crisis situation, extreme situation, crisis psychology, magic realism, category, real, irreal.

#### Introduction

Person's life is full of problems connected with illnesses, death of relatives and so on. These days the number of critical situations which people get into because of different reasons has increased due to the development of anthropogenic sphere.

The article describes models of people's behavior in crisis situations according to the rules of magic realism tendency.

#### The aim of the research

Nowadays magic realism is discussed by the critics all over the world. Many writers give specific interpretation of the trend and its features. In our article we are going to analyze important characteristics. They are categories of space and time which are mainly related to the tendency.

### Materials and methods of research

Materials of the research are the books written by a modern American writer Alice Sebold "Lovely Bones" which is to our mind a bright example of magic realism tendency. The methods applied in the research are typological, sociological and theoretical poethics.

Notwithstanding many textbooks in which models of behavior in critical situations are described, we often learn that people still become victims of such situations because of wrong actions. Analysis of people's behavior in critical situations is very important as it can help find the mistakes and give further recommendations according the rules of behavior.

L.S. Vygotsky defined a critical situation as "a change, a revolt, a decisive period of the transition state" [2; 194].

Psychological analysis of the term showed that there are two main types of the crisis:

- 1) crisis of development (it is connected with development, growing up and psychological changing of a person);
  - 2) crisis of circumstances (it is connected with danger from anthropogenic sphere) [3].

It is clear that the first type mentioned in books by L.S. Vygotskiy. He defined that crisis as the crisis of definite period of age when a person experiences the change in consciousness. The second type is the object of crisis psychologists' research.

However, there are other terms which are used by the specialists to name these situations. One of the terms is connected with the source of appearance.

In modern literature on Psychology it is possible to find terms that are similar to "crisis situation" as they name abnormal situations or the source of crisis in people's lives.

I.G. Malkina-Pyh gives the term "an extreme situation" which is connected with emergency situations [3] (natural disasters, terrorist attacks and so on).

Analyzing definition of the "crisis situation" given by E.V. Burmistrova, we can find that one of the features is the lack of sense in further existence [1].

Moreover, O.G. Osuhova names abnormal, unusual situation in a person's life as "hard live situation". The scientist defines it as the situation when there is a failure in the process of adaptation to life and disability to satisfy people's needs with the help of common models. This failure happens due to the internal or external changes [4]. The latter is of great interest.

However, the analysis of theoretical material on Psychology is not full without any characteristics of a person's behavior in crisis situations through the images of literary works. Psychological research of a person's behavior through literary works is of great importance for full understanding of a phenomenon of a person in common and the situations he or she suffers.

Implementation of person's psychology in "crisis situations" can be found in many genres. Adding to this, magic realism works describe people's behavior in situations mentioned above in a peculiar way.

Magic realism is well-known and popular nowadays. The works of the genre are defined by some features. One of them is the existence of two worlds. One of the worlds is real, common and usual. The other is unreal, imagined by the author. Moreover, both worlds are joined all together as one whole and co-operate. The reader sometimes cannot separate the worlds. One more important feature is that only one of the characters can penetrate the unreal world and communicate with unreal characters.

The source of magic realism genre is Latin America the 1920s. The most well-known writers are G.G. Markes, M.A. Asturias, A. Karpentier and others. They try to represent some

fantastic unreal facts as something usual and common. For example, G.G. Markes in his book "One Hundred Years of Solitude" (1967) describes *solitude* as a disease that all the characters of the book suffer from. The author shows that lack of love is the source of solitude.

Later the genre expanded its territory. Nowadays it is popular all over the world.

In the article we are going to analyze the works of modern American writers because to our mind they clearly describe the behavior of people in crisis situations. Magic realism works have unreal components that are represented by characters, time, place or situations.

On one hand readers are able to understand fully characters' feelings, on the other – they can imagine another scenario of the actions.

The novel "Lovely Bones" (2002) written by Alice Sebold is a vivid example of the description of different types of behavior in crisis situations.

Alice Sebold (born in 1963, Madison, the USA) is an American writer famous for her book based on real facts. When she was a student, Alice was raped. The previous victim was killed, so was lucky to stay alive.

Later she wrote a novel "Lovely Bones" and described the story of a small girl who was raped and killed by the neighbor. Her relatives try to find her but the killer dismembered the body and hid it. A. Sebold describes different types of behavior of people in this "hard live situation", a close person death.

The novel starts with the words "My name was Salmon, like the fish; first name Susie. I was fourteen when I was murdered on December 6, 1973" [5; 12]. From the very beginning we get into unreal world which is represented by the outer world. The reader realizes that it is impossible for the character to narrate if she is dead. The existence of unreal characters is the main feature of magic realism works.

Suzy Salmon, a fourteen year old girl, suffers from a killer. The police tries to find her but the killer hides the body thoroughly. Then, the author puts the main character into the skies. This way she wants to help the police and relatives find the killer. From the skies Suzy watches her close people behavior.

In psychology scientists define the following types of reaction in crisis situation:

- 1) a sharp decrease of organization (affective disorganization);
- 2) sharp braking;
- 3) increase of the effectiveness of the actions [4].

The feature of the first type is the violation of the logic of thinking and chaotic actions. The second type is characterized by the sharp braking. It happens when the person is under stress and refuses to analyze and act. The third type is represented by the energetic action of a person. The person is under psychological decompensation. That is, he is obsessed with the idea that his important interests are in danger [4]. Psychologists think that the way people behave in hard live situations is connected with the level of perception of outside requirements and the level of motivation.

Novel "Lovely Bones" by A. Sebold tells the story of one family who suffers a crisis situation. They have lost a member of a family. One of the children in the family was killed and they didn't find her body. The author shoes how different they behave in this situation.

Suzy's father is obsessed with the idea to find the killer. He spends all the time looking for this person. He forgets about his family, his wife and smaller daughter. "Mr. Salmon was crazy with grief and had gone out to the cornfield seeking revenge. It fit what they knew of him, his persistent phone calls, his obsession with the neighbor, and Detective Fenerman having visited that same day to tell my parents that for all intents and purposes my murder investigation had entered a sort of hiatus" [5; 148].

In contrast to her father, the mother chooses to get away from the problem. Life with the close people becomes unbearable for her. So, she leaves her family and moves to another city.

"Len kissed her forehead hard and closed his eyes. ... She needed Len to drive the dead daughter out" [5; 152].

The smaller sister chooses the tactics as her mother does. "Lindsey was dumbfounded. She stares at our mother and knew what she wanted most: to flee, to run out into the cornfield where my father was, where I was, where she felt suddenly that the heart of her family had moved" [5; 150]. What is more, she does not discuss her older sister's death. She stays away from the problem. "When she returned to junior high in the fall of 1974, Lindsey was not only the sister of the murdered girl but the child of a "crackpot", "nutcase", "looney-tunes", and the latter hurt her more because it wasn't true" [5; 156]. Psychologists call this "defensive reaction" of an organism.

Suzy's smaller brother also suffers her death. He becomes alone and is afraid of adult people. "Buckley entered kindergarten that year and immediately arrived home with a crush on his teacher, Miss Koekle. She held his hand so gently whenever she had to lead him to the bathroom or help explain an assignment that her force was irresistible" [5; 157].

As for the best friend, she tries to get used to Suzy's image. She keeps the diary and reasons about her traits of character. She even starts going on dates with Suzy's boyfriend. This way of behavior helps Suzy keep in touch with the world of alive, her beloved people. However, it is very difficult for Ray, Suzy's boyfriend, forget her. "Ray's eyes bid me forward while the watching streamed out of me and gave way to a pitiful desire. To be alive again on this Earth. Not to watch from above but to be – the sweetest thing – beside" [5; 301]. It is impossible for him to start a new life. "Ruthie, Ray said, that's close enough" [5; 294].

All in all, people's behavior in crisis situations cannot be predicted and is rarely can be explained because it depends on many factors. Psychological research gives some terms to name such behavior. Moreover, artistic literature also gives many examples of this types of behavior and helps understand it.

#### References

- 1. Burmistrova E.V. System of psychological help in critical situations // Psychology Science and Education. 2003. №3. demy– P/16-24
- 2. Vygotskiy S.L. Psychology. M.: EKSMO Press, 2000. 1007p.
- 3. Malkina Pyh I.G. Extreme situations: Practice psychologist tutorial. M.: EKSMO, 2005. 916p.
- 4. Osuhova N.G. Psychological help in difficult and extreme situations. M.: Academy, 2005. 288p.
- 5. Sebold A. Lovely Bones. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2002. 329p.

#### Список литературы

- 1. Бурмистрова Е.В. Система оказания психологической помощи в кризисной ситуации // Психологическая наука и образование. 2003. №3. С.16-24
- 2. Выготский С.Л. Психология. М.: ЭКСМО Пресс, 2000. 1007с.
- 3. Малкина Пых И.Г. Экстремальные ситуации: Справочник практического психолога. М.: ЭКСМО, 2005. 916с.
- 4. Осухова Н.Г. Психологическая помощь в трудных и экстремальных ситуациях. М.: Академия, 2005. 288с.
- 5. Sebold A. Lovely Bones. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2002. 329p.