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## РОЛЬ КАТЕГОРИЙ ПРОСТРАНСТВА И ВРЕМЕНИ В ПРОИЗВЕДЕНИЯХ МАГИЧЕСКОГО РЕАЛИЗМА

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### Аннотация

В статье анализируются категории пространства и времени и их роль в художественном тексте. Данные категории рассматриваются в рамках направления магического реализма на примере произведений современных американских авторов Джорджа Мартина, Джонтана Кэрролла и Рэнсома Риггса. Уточняется понятие «магический реализм» и его характерные черты.

**Ключевые слова:** магический реализм, категория, реальное, нереальное, пространство, время.

## ROLE OF THE CATEGORIES OF SPACE AND TIME IN MAGIC REALISM BOOKS

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### ABSTRACT

The article deals with the analysis of the magic realism literary works. The terms of literary space and literary time are described. The functions of the categories of space and time are defined. The categories are analyzed in terms of modern American writers G. Martin, J. Carroll and R. Riggs.

**Keywords:** magic realism, category, real, unreal, space, time.

### Introduction

Fantastic and unreal become the object of the scientific recent research in foreign literature. Many new genres connected with fantastic appear nowadays. They are science fiction, fantasy and magic realism.

The article describes magic realism as one of the most contemporary tendencies not only in modern American literature but also all over the world.

### **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 modern American writers Ransom Riggs, George Martin, Jonathan Carroll and Audrey Niffenegger which to our mind are bright examples of magic realism tendency and describe outer space and time clearly. The methods applied in the research are typological, sociological and theoretical poethics.

The term "magic realism" at first was used to describe the works of art of the neorealist German artists [1;10]. France Roo (1890-1965), German art critic, firstly represents the term "magic realism" instead of post expressionism. Later it became the main term in literature. Some of the researchers think of magic realism to be the characteristic of Latin American literature. A. F. Kofman defines magic realism as "constant term of Latin American consciousness" [2]. The books of such Latin American writers as H.L. Borhes, M.A. Asturias, G. Garsia Markes are the bright examples of magic realism. As for the modern researchers (A.A Gugin, T. Kohanovskaya, A.K. Yakimovich) they say "magic realism is not the basic characteristic of Latin American literature. Although just its definition given in critics is connected with Latin America" [3; 254]. Since 1950s this tendency broadened its territory up to Germany, France, Italy and Britain. The critics and writers defined the main characteristics of literary trend.

In our article we will give the short explanation of the basic features of magic realism. Firstly, it matches realism and science fiction in such a way that it appears that "magic" comes out of the common naturally and the difference is not clear. Moreover, one of the main characteristic of the magic realism is the combination of the natural and supernatural into one garment. At the same time the characters take the supernatural facts for granted and unusual situations are closely joined with common ones.

What is more, supernatural world is described very clearly and the readers have the feeling that the world is real. To reach the goal the authors use a lot of definitions and details of the phenomena.

The characters in magic realism works as a rule are divided into two types: real and unreal or fictional. The events are usually fictional but the problems which the characters try to cope with are common and routine. At the same time to solve the problems the characters have to use supernatural powers.

All the elements that were mentioned above are the units of the verbal artistic world that make the plot of the work. Although the world of the book is multi-dimensional and also includes the components of the imaginary (characters' acts of behavior, portraits and events) and some sense containing the definition of the world.

Modern post structural deconstructivist theoretical context has the basic category "artistic world". Magic realism is a new and not studied clearly yet. Some of the works are devoted to such

elements of the tendency as supernatural, unreal, "time loop" and so on. However the full description of the elements and their link with the author's idea has not been defined yet.

The specific characteristic of the magic realism works is the existence of two worlds – real and unreal that have the different internal components [1; 117]. The components include real and unreal characters, events, space and time. The categories of space and time as a rule are very vividly represented in magic realism works. The action appears in real space. For example in the novel by Ransom Riggs "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children". R. Riggs (born in 1979, Maryland, the USA) is a famous American writer and screenwriter. His career started from his hobby, collecting unusual photos which he later combined into a novel "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" (2012). Then he continued the story about the children with extraordinary powers and two more novels appeared "Hollow City" (2014) and "Library of Souls" (2015). The trilogy was later translated into many languages including Russian. The main character of the book is a boy whose grandfather dies and but the reason is unclear. Jacob wants to find the answers to the questions and goes to Scotland where his grandfather lived when he was a small boy. There he finds one more parallel world which is the shelter for people with extraordinary powers. This world looks like the real one and does not have any specific characteristic except the fact that only some of the characters are able to see it. The category of time is represented by real and unreal. Unreal time which is one of the main characteristic of the magic realism is the so-called time loop. It means that time stopped at the definite time on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1940. It is not linear as in real world but is a closed time loop. That is the unreal characters have to live this day again every day.

*A sudden boom sounded from outside, the second one this evening, but louder and closer than the first, rattling silverware and plates.*

*"Hurry up and finish, everyone!" Miss Peregrine sang out, and no sooner had she said it than another concussion jolted the house, throwing a framed picture off the wall behind me.*

*"What is that?" I said.*

*"It's those damned Jerries again!" growled Olive, thumping her little fist on the table, clearly in imitation of some ill-tempered adult. Then I heard what sounded like a buzzer going off somewhere far away, and suddenly it occurred to me what was happening. This was the night of September third, 1940, and in a little while a bomb was going to fall from the sky and blow a giant hole in the house. The buzzer was an air-raid siren, sounding from the ridge.*

*"We have to get out of here," I said, panic rising in my throat. "We have to go before the bomb hits!"*

*"He doesn't know!" giggled Olive. "He thinks we're going to die!"*

*"It's only the changeover," said Millard with a shrug of his smoking jacket. "No reason to get your knickers in a twist."*

*"This happens every night?"*

*Miss Peregrine nodded. "Every single evening," she said. Somehow, though, I was not reassured [7].*

Other modern American writers represent the categories of time and space in quite a different way. J. Carroll and G. Martin put their characters in real time and space.

Jonathan Carroll (born in 1949, New York, the USA) is a famous American writer of magic realism genre. His first book "The land of Laughs" which was the vivid example of the tendency

appeared in 1980. All in all, he has written more than 15 novels. Some of them were translated into Russian.

In his novel "The Land of Laughs" J. Carroll uses just the category of reality. His characters live in the small town and there is no transition to reality. The effect of irreality is reached with the help of the existence of different characters. They are real and irreal ones. A school teacher Thomas Abbey falls in love with a strange girl Saxony Gardner. They both are interested in the biography of Marshall France, a reclusive author of fabulous children's tales who died when he was quite young. They are the examples of the group of real characters. As for the irreal characters they are mostly represented by the animals, dogs and cats that have the ability to speak in certain moments. Searching the facts of biography of the writer Thomas comes to the conclusion that the town was frozen in time and the animals were previously people. [4].

The story "Portraits of his children" was written by George Martin (born in 1948, New Jersey, the USA) modern American writer, screenwriter and producer. The novel has the real space and there is no transition to irreality. As for the time the transition from real to irreal is at night. An elderly writer gets the portraits of the characters of his books every day. At night the portraits become alive and blame their creator. In the morning they transform to the portraits again [5].

Audrey Niffenegger (born in 1963, Michigan, the USA) a popular American writer gives the unusual interpretation of the category space in her novel "The Time Traveler's Wife" (2003). The characters are real but they live in different dimensions. The heroine lives in the real time but the main character has an extraordinary disease. He has the ability to live in different dimensions. For example, he meets his future wife when he was 25 but she was 12. They get married when he was 35 but she was 20 [6].

### Conclusion

All in all, magic realism works of the modern American writers are characterized by many categories. Such as the existence of two worlds, two types of characters, the combination of real and irreal. However, the most important ones are the categories of time and space that clearly represent the tendency. They combine real and irreal as a whole. American writers use this characteristic to represent the tendency clearly.

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