THE WORLD OF CHILDHOOD IN BRITISH AND AMERICAN TALES

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In the modern world, there is a tendency when people prefer to be on the side of classical works, that reflect significant problems not only of past times, but also of the present century. However, often such works are the basis for creating new, original literary texts dedicated to the problems of our time. At one time a breakthrough for the 19th century was the work of the English writer Lewis Carroll, and his fairy tale "Alice in Wonderland" had a great influence on the artistic space of the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Already at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries, the admirer of L. Carroll's work, the English science fiction writer Neil Gaiman, modernized the theme of parallel worlds in the contemporary children's novel "Coraline". It seems relevant to study how the classical traditions of a literary fairy tale, laid down by Lewis Carroll and transformed in the modern interpretation of Neil Gaiman.

The purpose of the study is to determine how the image of the main character in the works of Neil Gaiman and Lewis Carroll reveals a different view of the world of childhood in the context of two eras.

Material and methods Our study is based on Neil Gaiman's "Coraline" and Lews Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland" analyzed with comparative historical and contextual methods.

Findings and their discussion. Lewis Carroll in his fairy tale "Alice in Wonderland" for the first time showed a girl who didn't have a fear to discover a new reality, different from normalized Victorian society. Carroll took the basis of the tale from the real-life: Alice Liddell asked her friend Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll's real name) to write a story for her and her sisters' pleasure. Dodgson told the sisters about the adventures of the brave girl named Alice, who ran after the White Rabbit and ended up in the Underground Country. Alice is a typical representative of the Victorian era: she behaves like a true lady, always polite, but at such a young age she is dreamy and naive: "She had absolutely nothing to do, and sitting idle, you know, is not an easy task" [1].

As Neil Gaiman claims the condition of existence of the real courage: "when you're scared but you still do it anyway, that's brave "[2]. The work describes a typical American family: mother and father are constantly immersed in work and their affairs, they do not find time for their daughter Coralina, therefore the motive for this work is the problem of the relationship between parents and children. In the house where her family had moved, the girl's curiosity leads her to a closed-door, which later became the entrance to a parallel reality. Little Coraline finds herself in a world where she has everything that she lacked in reality: caring for "other" parents, attention, delicious food and beautiful clothes... Only her mother from the other world was different in

appearance from the real one: her skin was white as paper, taller and thinner. And the main difference is instead of her eyes, there were two huge shiny buttons. This image did not bother Coraline at all, because she liked everything so much in her new house: "In danger? thought Coraline to herself. It sounded exciting. It didn't sound like a bad thing. Not really."[3].

The plot of "Coraline" consists of several reminiscent to Alice. These two works are similar not only in the describing of main characters but also in the reflecting parallel worlds: restlessness and curiosity of both heroines served as an impetus for the development of actions. The end of the novels is similar, in which both Coraline and Alice wake up in reality. Both heroines are bored in their childhood world, developed imagination and fantasy move them into a world inaccessible to no one but them, but each of them wants to get out of it when danger is felt.

Let's pay attention not only to the main characters described in these novels but secondary ones. Cats become not only friends for protagonists in novels but also the creatures who lead both Alice and Coraline into another world. Both animalistic images are very similar to each other: in a parallel world, they can talk and are helpers for the main characters, who warn of the dangers that may haunt them in the children's imagination. They are also absolutely independent and appear only when they consider it necessary and important: "I am not crazy. My reality is just different from yours "[1].

According to the laws of the genre, any fairy tale meets the antipodes of good characters with evil intentions. Coraline's fantasy created the opposite creature to her mother. This "other" one is very caring mother, it seems that she really loves Coraline, however, getting to know this character closer during the reading, it becomes obvious that this is just a mask behind which there is a selfish face who just needs to love someone: "In the button-like eyes of another mother, Coralina saw that she was just her property, and nothing more. So people look at the little animal at home, whose tricks no longer cause emotion " [3].

Carroll's tale also has its doppelgangers from the world of evil the Red Queen. She freely cuts off the heads of characters who do not fulfil her instructions or simply do not like her. The feeling of power gives rise to cruelty and ruthlessness in her, however, Alice was the only one, who could tame the Queen.

One cannot but pay attention to the peculiarity of the historical era when the works were written. Alice's fictional world embodies a rebellion against Victorian society, which was characterized by strict adherence to the moral code formed by Queen Victoria. In the work, Alice is an opponent of her time: despite the brutal laws for the female population, she appears as an independent person.

Neil Gaiman describes Coraline as the "product" of his time. If Alice ran after the Rabbit in protest of her era, then Coraline from hopelessness. Modern time is characterized by a fast pace of life: modern people are in a constant hurry, concentrating on the pursuit of material values. Coraline's parents lived in

such a rhythm, and she wanted to learn, explore this world, therefore, because of her curiosity, she opened the door to a parallel reality, despite the danger, thereby reflecting courage and courage. Coraline can also be considered a protest against the time in which she lives because she does not give in to the orders dictated by a typical society.

Conclusion. So, noting the points of contact between the two works, we found that, despite all similarities, both Alice and Coraline are characters of different types, reflecting the features of the time in which they were created. Also, analyzing the world of childhood displayed by different characters, we can note that eternal themes not only do not lose their relevance these days but also acquire a modern sound that is understandable to today's reader.

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