

**THE PROBLEM OF DISCRIMINATION IN 'HARRY POTTER'
BY J.K. ROWLING**

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The cult cycle of the novels of J. K. Rowling "Harry Potter" played an important role in forming the culture of the 2000s. Millions of children and adults around the world enthusiastically read these books. In addition to online communication through blogs, fan sites and groups in social networks, fans of Harry Potter take part in thematic conferences. So what does make these books so popular?

Joanne Rowling's books are an excellent educational basis for the young generation. They teach us how to distinguish the good from the evil, how to act right in different situations and how to root moral principles.

Despite the fact that the books were originally written for a child's audience, they do not reflect only children's problems. In these books you can find such current issues as discrimination on the basis of race and gender, stratification of the society into the poor and the rich people, contradiction between individual and social values and many others. Joanne Rowling urged her novels as a "prolonged argument for tolerance" [3] and urged her fans to "question authority" [3]. So, the aim of study is to research the problems of discrimination in Joan Rowling's books.

Material and methods. Our research is based on the comparative method. The material of our study is classification, description.

Findings and their discussion. As it was mentioned above, discrimination is one of the most current problems of our time. One of the subspecies of discrimination is racism. According to the English Oxford dictionary "Racism is prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior" [4].

In Joanne Rowling's books, we can draw a parallel between the elves and representatives of the Negroid and Mongoloid races from the 16th to the 19th century. Terrible working conditions and unpaid work are the main reasons why we can compare these two situations. The word "slavery" and the word "racism" are very closely connected. Despite the fact that slavery has been abolished long time ago, unfortunately, we cannot tell that racism is a remnant of the past. Every day, people around the world face this problem in simple situations: when they apply for a job, study in schools and universities, even just talk with other people. The policy of many countries is directed against this way of thinking, but, unfortunately, it is not always effective.

In her books, J. K. Rowling shows us this social problem in the image of the house-elf Dobby. Dobby is the impersonation of the oppressed groups of the population. He symbolizes liberation from the masters.

The first mention of the terrible plight of the house-elf refers to the second book – "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" (1998). After meeting Dobby, Harry Potter politely invites him to sit down. To his horror, the elf burst into tears.

"S-sit down!" he wailed. "Never ... never ever ..." [1].

"Dobby has never been asked to sit down by a wizard — like an equal" [1].

This brief phrase reveals that even in the magic world there is a superiority of some races over others. In addition, the theme of slave's psychology takes place in this books, or so-called "dependence on the master".

After Dobby speaks negatively about his masters, he starts to punish himself, despite the fact that his masters will not know about this fault: "Dobby had to punish himself, sir," said the elf, who had gone slightly cross-eyed. "Dobby almost spoke ill of his family, sir ..." [1] "The wizardfamily Dobby serves, sir. Dobby is a house-elf, bound to serve one house and one family forever."

"Do they know you're here?" asked Harry curiously.

Dobby shuddered.

"Oh, no, sir, no. Dobby will have to punish himself most grievously for coming to see you, sir. Dobby will have to shut his ears in the oven door for this. If they ever knew, sir..." [1].

In this fragment we can notice the unquestioning commitment to the master. The thought that you can imagine your master not in positive way, scares the elf. For him, the lord is an indisputable authority and he must be obeyed, that is why he punishes himself. Dobby says: "Sometimes they (the masters) reminds me to do extra punishments" [1].

This line says that some wizards are not only unfair to the elves in a mental way, but also punish them physically. In the modern world, the open expression of racist attitudes is considered politically unacceptable, not mentioning the practice of it.

The same demonstration of slave's philosophy can be found in the words of another house-elf Winky, who served the Crouch's house.

When Barty Crouch gave Winky freedom at the Quidditch World Cup in 1994, she became very upset. As there was no worse sorrow for her than being free.

"Winky has behaved tonight in a manner I would not have believed possible," he said slowly. "I told her to remain in the tent. I told her to stay there while I went to sort out the trouble. And I find that she disobeyed me. This means clothes."

"No!" shrieked Winky, prostrating herself at Mr. Crouch's feet. "No, master! Not clothes, not clothes!" [2]

After being banished by Mr. Crouch, Winky cannot adapt to normal social life. Having lost her sense of existence, she is afraid to self-realize. That is why she starts to drink alcohol and gradually turns into a drunk untidy creature. But

even being in this situation, the elf continues to worry about her old master and protect his secrets: "Winky keeps her master's secrets," she said mutinously very heavily now, frowning up at Harry with her eyes crossed. "You is nosing, you is." [2]

"Winky must not talk like that to Harry Potter!" said Dobby angrily. "Harry Potter is brave and noble and Harry Potter is not nosy!" [2]

"He is nosing into my master's private and secret Winky is a good house-elf, Winky keeps her silence, people trying to pry and poke" [2].

Even after her release, Winky does not stop to believe that Mr. Crouch is her master, and she is his servant. A matter of habit can also explain dependence on the desire to serve. Winky knows no other life but service, this huge real world scarce her, and she prefers to remain "protected" by her master. She has no personal initiative and waits for her to be told what to do and how to do it.

Conclusion. This way of thinking can be changed only by replacing the destructive worldview with a creative one. It is very important for a person to have the freedom of choice, responsibility and the ability to satisfy his own needs. In conclusion, it can be said that racism is nothing but luck of human's mind. We cannot say that one race is smarter or better than another. After all, we should remember brave elf Dobby, who did more good than many other wizards.

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YASEP DRAZDOVICH AS AN IMPORTANT FIGURE IN BELARUSIAN CULTURE (FOR 130th ANNIVERSARY SINCE THE BIRTH OF PAINTER)

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Yazep Drazdovich is a remarkable figure in Belarusian culture of the first half of the 20th century. A talented painter and graphic, remarkable master of the plastic, decorative and applied arts, writer, poet, teacher, ethnographer, archaeologist, and folklorist – he was able to show himself in the every of the named field. Sources of his art can be found in Belarusian traditional popular attitude to the world. The aim of the research is to systematize the information