
HUMAN HELPERS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK FAIRYTALES

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Abstract

The article deals with the specific features of human helpers in English and Uzbek fairytales.

Key words. Fairytale, folklore, character, helper, motif.

Introduction

There are several types of helpers that assist the main hero in fairy tales. Human helpers are one type of them. Human helpers can be observed both in English and Uzbek fairy tales.

Main part. Commenting on the types of supporting characters, Graham Seal cites examples from the folklore of peoples of the world, saying that "he can be an elderly person, a representative of the opposite sex, a supernatural helper, a magical object, including a magical sword, magical clothes, a wand, and even a doll." ¹

The supporting characters appear in human form in both English and Uzbek fairy tales. Brother rescues his sister and becomes a helper. In the Uzbek folk tale "Opauka", a brother who has turned into a deer speaks and asks his sister to come out from under the pond. When the king found out about this, he ordered the pond to be drained and saved his wife.

In the English folk tale "The Laidly Worm of Spindleston Heugh", Margaret is rescued by her brother Childe Wind, who is oppressed by her stepmother. On this way, 33 warrior knights build a ship and help them reach their motherland from distant lands.

Anthropogenic epic helpers can be studied by gender into male and female helpers. For example, in English fairy tales such as "The Red Ettin", "The White Lady", "Little Brownie", epic helpers appear in the form of women, while in

¹ McCormick Ch.T., White K.K. Folklore. An Encyclopedia of Beliefs, Customs, Tales and Art. – England, 2011. – P.647.



"Binnorie", "Jack the Giant killer", "Childe Rowland", "The History of Tom Thumb" helpers appear as men.

Epic helpers in human form vary in age. They can be old or young. In the Uzbek folk tale "An Old Woodcutter" ("Utinchi chol"), an old man takes Dod across the river with his eyes closed.

At the end of the English fairy tale "Jack and the Giant killer" an old man helps Jack by teaching him how to rescue the bewitched people from magic, while in the tale "Childe Rowland" the wizard Merlin guides the main character, following which Childe Roland saves his sister and brothers from magic.

In some tales, the image of a peasant is given as a guide to the epic hero. For example, this motive can be found in the fairy tale "Kenja Batir". Young Botir is guided by an old farmer. According to his instructions, Kenja saves Semurg's children from the dragon, so in return, Semurg takes Kenja to Earth. This means that one epic hero can be supported by several forms of patronage. These can be human, bird or animal.

In the fairy tale "Sunbul and Gul", the hunter, Sabirboy, and the gatekeeper do harm to Gul and want to kill him, but the gardener and an old woman save him from death. In Uzbek folk tale "Ayikpolvon" ("The Bear") an old man appears as a helper.

In the fairy tale "Jack and the Beanstalk", the main character, Jack, meets a passenger out of a sudden who gives him some strange-looking beans from his pocket. Jack plants them at night and by morning they will grow up to the sky. Jack jumps on a beanstalk that grows like a big ladder, climbs up and ends up in the house of a giant. He gets rich by taking away from the giant a magical hen that lays golden eggs and a golden harp that sings very sweetly.

In the fairy tale "The Red Ettin", when an old woman meets a brave young man on his way and asks for alms, the younger son willingly agrees and shares with her a large portion of the bread that his mother cooked. In return, the old woman gives him a magic wand. With this stick, the young man defeats the giant and rescues his brother. This old lady, who is in fact a fairy, informs the young man of what awaits him on his way and teaches him how to behave in difficult situations.

In the fairy tale "The black bull of Norroway", a young girl ends up starving in the forest. The old woman who lives there gives the girl shelter, food and three nuts, shows the way and wishes her luck. The girl finds her lover and presents the



nymphs that emerge one by one from three walnuts to her lover and helps him to get rid of the spell.

In folktales of both nations, anthropogenic helpers are observed, and they appear in the form of an old woman, an old man, a brother, a servant, a shepherd, a warrior, a woodcutter, a craftsman, and etc. There are many similarities in their interpretation.

Conclusion

To sum up, fairy tales can include magic, talking animals, or a touch of realism. Fairy tales don't always contain a moral or lesson, they can be pure entertainment, but often teach about consequences and values like kindness and patience. Helpers can be seen in most fairytales throughout the world. They may appear in different forms and may have different characteristics, specific features as they belong to different nations. However, the motif is similar —to give support, advice or a hand to people in need.

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