
TPOLOGY OF FEATURES CHARACTERISTIC OF THE CHILD'S PSYCHE IN THE WORK OF MARK TWAIN (ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE WORK OF TOM SAWYER AND GEKBERRY FINN)

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Abstract:

The creative legacy of Mark Twain amazes with the richness of its genre repertoire. From his mouth and from his pen, a wide variety of works were born - from aphorism and witticism in one or two phrases to a thousand—page autobiography, from brief newspaper information and reportage to large books of travel notes, from hilariously funny stories to serious philosophical dialogue, from anecdote and fiction to novels recognized as a national epic - factography, journalism, fiction. He also wrote poetry and plays, but above all he became a great master of fiction.

Keywords: genre, fiction, poetry, adventure, story, philosophy.

Twain's most famous novels are generally named by genre: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer ("The Adventures of Tom Sawyer", 1876) and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn ("The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn", 1884). It would seem that the oldest and most widespread tradition is to combine two elements in the name: the names of the main characters and the genre. But there was an important surprise here — the "adventures" of Twain's teenage heroes did not take place in exotic countries, not in the South seas and not in medieval Europe, but in recent times, in the American backwoods and almost with the author himself, who passed them off as an unconditional reality, so there is a construct of memories in these novels and factography.¹ This is indicated by the preface to "Tom Sawyer": "Most of the adventures described in this book really happened: two or three adventures - with me, the rest - with my schoolmates. Huck Finn really existed. Tom Sawyer, too. But not as a separate person: he combined the features of three boys I know, so that his image is a complex architectural structure". And then Twain further emphasizes the real origin of the novel, using the word story, which in this case has a clear

¹ Fowler A. Kinds of literature: An Introduction to the Theory of Genres and Modes. -Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1982. P. V, 45.



meaning of "everyday history", a non-fictional story. It is worth recalling that two years before that, the writer published a story that he called simply and unpretentiously, but with obvious intent - to emphasize its pure reality: A True Story Repeated Word for Word as I Heard It ("A true story, written word for word, as I heard it"). The next novel, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, was preceded by a mocking "Warning": "Persons who try to find a motive in this narrative will be put on trial; persons who try to find morality in it will be exiled; persons who try to find a plot in it will be shot. By order of the author, Gen. Gubernia, Chief of Artillery". The author's unwillingness to comply with the basic rules, whether it is the main idea, morality or plot, is highlighted.

There is no genre definition in the titles of Twain's next two novels, even in the subtitle, but it is easy to find it in the text. In the "Preface" to the fantastic journey into the past of A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court ("Yankee from Wannecticut at the court of King Arthur", 1889), the word tale appears, it is also entitled "manuscript" of the main character-narrator: "The Tale of a Lost Country". In the "Explanation" to the novel "The American Pretender" (The American Claimant, 1892), he is simply called a "book", and in addition, a reference is given to his predecessor - to the novel "The Gilded Age", where this hero has already met, and in the additional preface a very unusual genre definition is proposed: "In this there are no descriptions of the weather in the book. The author tried to do without them. In fiction, this is the first attempt of this kind".

A non-standard genre name adorned the original edition of the story "Simpleton Wilson": The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson and the Comedy of Those Extraordinary Twins (1894), although on the first page of the author's manuscript there was a simple one: Pudd'nhead Wilson. A Tale (All the same word - a story).²The first chapter of it begins with a new definition: "The scene of this chronicle." (The scene of this chronicle.". Thus, the reader is free to choose what he likes - a tragedy with a comedy, a story or a chronicle. The book "Personal Memories of Jeanne d" has an unambiguous and at the same time free genre characteristic in its title. The Arc of Sieur Louis de Comte, her page and Secretary" (Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc, 1896), presented as a free translation of an old French manuscript.

² Большакова А.Ю. Современные теории жанра в англо-американском литературоведении // Теория литературы. Т. III. Роды и жанры (основные проблемы в историческом освещении). М., ИМЛИ РАН, 2003. С.99.



For completeness, it is necessary to say about the last three large works of Twain, unfinished and intended for posthumous publication, two of them are defined by genre by the titles themselves: these are "Autobiography" and "Letters from the Earth" (Letters from the Earth, written in 1909, for the first time published in 1962). The third exists in three or four versions: "The Chronicle of Young Satan" (The Chronicle of Young Satan, 1897-1900), "Schoolhouse Hill" (Schoolhouse Hill, 1898) and "No. 44. The Mysterious Stranger" (No. 44. The Mysterious Stranger, 1902-1908). By genre, this is a fantastic novel about the essence and meaning of life, which is born out of a parody of the gospel.

References

1. Рамка относится к рассказу Уилера как 1:4, сама, в свою очередь, делится надвое в соотношении примерно 2/3 в начале и 1/3 — в конце. Тут ещё ничего примечательного нет, но построение самого ярна выявляет такие закономерности:
2. Он делится строго пополам: 1) описание Джима Смайли и прежних его споров (81,5 строки 1030 слов), 2) рассказ о лягушке (81,5 строки - 1030 слов).
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