

J.K. ROWLING'S CONTRIBUTION OF ENGLISH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE TO EXIT WORLD STAGE

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Abstract: The article highlights the significant contribution of Joan Rowling, a great writer in the fantasy genre of children's literature, to English children's literature through "Harry Potter". The proverbs use in the protagonists speeches, the certain motifs use in fairy tales, legends and epics as a basis for the work, made "Harry Potter" one of the English folklore examples.

Keywords: children's literature, folklore, fairy tales, legends and epics, fantasy.

Children's literature is a means of art word and education, and any work of art written for young readers should be appropriate to their age, level, inspire thoughts in youth hearts, inspire them to bright and noble deeds. Most importantly, the topics should be expressed in clear, simple and interesting language. The young reader is always interested in magic-fantasy fairy tales, adventure stories and works. Children's literature differs from adult literature in its peculiarities. After all, a children's writer describes world events of children's imagination and understanding.

If we look at the children's literature history, we can see that 4-5 centuries ago it existed as a literature that is not adult literature independent. Because in previous centuries no one cared about the attitude to children and the "childhood" concept, the budding of romanticism and the new romantic writers approach to childhood gave rise to the idea that childhood is different from other periods. As a result, it gradually changed the attitude of adults to children and childhood.

In his works, Harvey Darton writes that children's literature in England originated in the XVIII century. Until this century, children read works for adults, but from the XVIII century, writing works and stories for children developed. At the same time, special publishing houses for the children's books publication and the business engaged in this work gradually began to emerge. Over time, the appearance, size, and even the children's books content began to change. At first, children's literature changed in subject and genre, but later readers were divided into girls and boys. The social system of the time also influenced children's literature, for example, the schools that played an important role in children's lives in England at that time were described in the literature, and even works about school life began to be written one after another. Such works were dedicated to the students' adventures at school, and were mainly intended for boys' audiences. Taking into account the fact that girls spend more time in the family and the home importance in their lives, works about home life began to be written for girls.

By the middle of the 19th century, the fantasy genre, one of the most important genres of children's literature, entered children's literature. Over the course of a century and a half, the fantasy genre has undergone various changes, and in children's literature it has been divided into subgenres. Also, a writer who has created in each genre has contributed to this genre development. In the early twentieth century, Tolkien's contribution to this genre development was invaluable, but by the end of the twentieth century, Joan Rowling, through "Harry Potter", showed that the fantasy genre is still one of the leading genres of children's literature. If we look at twentieth-century English children's literature, we can see that the fantasy genre was significantly superior to other genres. Fantasy is a fiction genre that, according to the genre requirements, takes place in a magical world that is completely different from the "real" world in which we live. This "secondary" world has its own laws, which do not correspond to the simple logic and nature laws. Its difference from science fiction is that

in the fantasy genre there is no attempt to scientifically explain the world laws in which events take place. The time and the fact change that different fantasy kingdoms are common in the fantasy world is a common occurrence.

In 1997, British author Joan Rowling published her fantasy work “Harry Potter”, which soon became one of the most sensational and widely translated works in children's literature. The Harry Potter phenomenon has spread all over the world. At a time when information and science and technology are advancing and children and adolescents are moving away from books, this work, which saw the world, brought children back to the world of books. The adventures of 11-year-old wizard Harry Potter at Hogwarts, the magic and sorcery school, were read with interest by children around the world.

Although “Harry Potter” is written in the fantasy genre, it can also be included in the school stories and adventures category. According to the fantasy genre requirements, the events take place mainly in the wizards’ world created by Rowling, in particular, at the Hogwarts magic and sorcery school. Every place and everything that makes up this world, whether it is a vehicle or an object used by magicians in their daily lives, is carefully designed by the author. In the world of magicians, you almost never encounter electric and vehicles used by ordinary people.

Joanna Kathleen Rowling, known worldwide as the author of “Harry Potter”, was born on July 31, 1965 at the family of aircraft engineer Peter James Rowling and Anna Rowling in Gloucestershire, England. From an early age, Rowling wrote stories and read them to her sister. When Rowling was a teenager, in her own words, "who taught her classical philology and always quenched her thirst for knowledge" her older aunt gave her an old copy of Jessica Mitford's autobiography, “Hons and Rebels” (“The Greats and the Revolutionaries”). From the day she read the book, Mitford became Rowling's protagonist, and she read all author's books one by one.

In 1982, Rowling passed the entrance exams to Oxford University, but could not enter without good luck. After that he entered the Exeter University, where he studied French and classical philology. After returning from a year of study in Paris, Rowling graduated in 1986 from the Exeter University. She then came to London to work as a secretary for Amnesty International's research department. In 1990, Rowling moved to Manchester. That same year, on a train from Manchester to London, she thought of a story about a boy who was studying at a magic school.

In December of that year, Rowling's mother died after a decade illness. The writer is deeply saddened by such a loss, and her mental state at the time also affected the work. Rowling, who suffered the loss, describes in detail Harry's loss in the first book.

A year later, on July 27, 1993, their daughter, Jessica Isabel Rowling Arantes, was born. Unfortunately, their marriage did not last long, and in November of that year they decided to divorce. Rowling moved in with her daughter and three “Harry Potter” chapters to her sister in Edinburgh. Rowling's days when her life was ruined and she was unemployed with her baby in her arms were actually a time to escape failure.

At the same time, doctors diagnosed Rowling with clinical depression, and in an interview the author admitted that at that time she had a suicidal idea. The soul-sucking dementors’ idea, described in the third book, came when she remembered that state of mind. However, Rowling found the strength to control her and in 1995 took a teacher training course at the Morey education school at Edinburgh University. By this time, she was still living on social protection provided by the state. When Rowling finished writing the first book of “Harry Potter”, she sent it to 12 publishers for publication, but no publisher accepted the work.¹ Rowling, who had not been able to publish her work for a year, obtained permission from Berry Cunningham, editor of Bloomsbury Publishing in London.

¹Bilton, Ch., Cummings, S. Handbook of Management and Creativity. EdwardElgar Publishing, 2014. p.168.

Although the publisher allowed the book to be published, Cunningham advised the author that she would not make much money from writing for children, and that she would soon have to find another job. Shortly afterwards, in 1997, the Scottish Arts Council offered Rowling £ 8,000 to continue writing.

In June 1997, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" was published in 1,000 copies, of which 500 copies were distributed to libraries. Five months later, the book won the first prize, the "Nestle Smarties Book Prize", and in February, the "British Book Award" and later the "Children's Book Award" for "Book of the Year". At a 1998 auction, Scholastic Inc. won \$ 105,000 to publish the book in the United States. In October, the book was published under the title "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone". In the first book, the author's full name was Joanna Rowling. However, taking into account the reluctance of boys to read books written by women writers, publishers advised the author to use two initials instead of a name. That's why Rowling published subsequent books under the pseudonym J.K. Rowling.

The sequel, "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets", was released in July 1998. This time, she won the "Nestle Smarties Book Prize" for her book Rowling. Rowling became the first author to win the award three times in a row, with the third book, "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban", published a year later. Harry Potter's fourth book, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire", went on sale in the United Kingdom and the United States on the same day, July 8, 2000. The book, which sold nearly 400,000 copies on its first day in the UK and 3 million copies in 48 hours in the US, broke the record for the fastest-selling book. For this book, Rowling was named "Writer of the Year" at the 2000 "British Book Awards". The fifth part of the book, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix", was published three years later in 2003. When the sixth book, "Harry Potter and the half-blood prince", went on sale in July 2005, it sold 9 million copies on its first day, setting a new record. The latest seventh book, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, went on sale in the United Kingdom and the United States on July 21, 2007, breaking new records: the book sold 11 million copies a day. Thus, "Harry Potter", which began to be published in 1997, came to an end in 2007. Harry Potter was a popular brand, valued at \$ 15 billion. The last four chapters of the book set a record as the best-selling books.

The children images that make up the main part of the work are also different from each other, and when analyzing their character traits, we can see that each of them has its own characteristics that are not found in other heroes. The characters created by Rowling are not frozen images at one point, but every event in the work, any situation, affects their psyche and serves to enhance their character. In addition, in the first and second books of the work, the protagonists' speech is given in simple language, but as they get older, their speech, appearance and behavior change. In particular, Harry, who, despite having the ability at the beginning of the work, does not know how to use it, eventually becomes a powerful magician, Ron, who relies on his emotions only to face adversity, becomes an intelligent, restrained, and purposeful figure in life. Such changes happen with almost every hero. The negative children's images created by Rowling are also portrayed in a unique way, if at the work beginning they provoke everyone's anger and are hated by readers, and later, through the author's portrayal of these heroes in a different context, the reader begins to understand the reason for the actions of such heroes, and they begin to develop at least some sympathy for the hero. One such character is the hero Draco Malfoy.

When writers write for children, they usually take children as the protagonists, and various events and adventures take place with these children. As mentioned above, young readers are more interested in the lives of their peers and their adventures than in the works depicting the lives of adults. Due to the fact that "Harry Potter" is a work for children and adolescents, most of its protagonists are children. The work peculiarity is that children grow up in each book for a year.

Although, in the first part of the book, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone", Harry Potter and his friends were simple eleven-year-olds who have just come to school, but in the last part of the work, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows", they become seventeen-year-old, experienced magicians. The fact that children grow up in each part of the work from year to year helped to ensure the protagonists vitality. Rowling's writing skills can also be learned through her character name selection. In the play, the name of each character is chosen in such a way that the names' meaning indicates the nature, character, lifestyle and even the fate of its owner. Such stylistic art is called antonomation in the literature, and it is also a means of expressing the writer's unique style.

In "Harry Potter" writing process Joan Rowling also witnessed the effective use of folklore in the right places. The proverbs use in the protagonists' speeches, and the certain motifs use in fairy tales, legends, and epics as a basis for a work, is a common occurrence in fiction. Everything in the magical and imaginary world created by Rowling: from heroes to various creatures, is different from the real world. With the same feature, "Harry Potter" is in a sense reminiscent of fairy tales and legends, which are an example of folklore. As Rowling mentioned above, English folklore is one of the richest folklore in the world. The reason is that for thousands years, the British folklore, which has been the victim of several invasions, has been enriched by the folklore and mythology of the occupying peoples. Every nation that invaded Britain sought to spread among its inhabitant's views of its Gods and mythological heroes. Therefore, in English folklore, it is natural to encounter mythical events and various mythological creatures that occur in the oral traditions of other peoples.

Folklore examples are the rich literary heritage of each nation, and writers in every age and in every nation often refer to it. "Harry Potter" can easily be included in the list of books with folklore. This served to further enhance the work artistic value. This is due to the fact that, firstly, the folklore presentation in fiction serves to spread it among children, and secondly, because it reflects the national color, it gives other students a little understanding of English folklore and thirdly, the artistic polishing of these works by the writer served to give them a new look and content.

Since "Harry Potter" is primarily intended for children and adolescents, one of the reasons for its success is the fact that adventures play a key role in the events development and that the main participants in these adventures are children, on the other hand, the author's skillful recording of his creative imagination, the careful sequence elaboration of each event, the successful combination of the author's artistic texture and folklore are other reasons that brought the book worldwide popularity. Also, the rich and historical folklore use of the English people by Rowling for the work events increased the artistic potential of the work, but did not reduce it. It is not surprising that one of the factors that led to the work popularity was the new depiction and interpretation of mythical creatures and events that are familiar to children through folklore.

The fact that the world events created by Rowling take place in our world, in the time we live in, and mainly in school (although it is a magicians school), ensures the work credibility and originality.

In short, Rowling demonstrated the artistic potential power of English children's literature through Harry Potter, a work that enchanted children with its well-crafted plot, unique imagery, and fun adventures. The name "Harry Potter", which has been translated into more than 60 languages over the years and made films based on it, is rarely known, and today it is rare to find a house where the work has not entered.

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