EPIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ENGLISH FOLK TALES

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ANNOTATION. *This study delves into the artistic and compositional elements that define epic works within English folklore, particularly fairy tales. It explores the historical, cultural, and social contexts that have shaped the creation and transmission of these narratives. By examining the origins and evolution of English folk tales, the research highlights how these narratives reflect the values, beliefs, and experiences of the communities from which they emerged.*

Through a critical analysis of their structure, themes, and motifs, the research seeks to elucidate the unique aesthetic qualities and enduring appeal of English epic tales. Key characteristics such as the presence of supernatural elements, archetypal characters, and the interplay between good and evil are explored to understand their significance in the broader context of English folklore. Furthermore, the study investigates how these tales often serve as moral lessons or cautionary tales, providing insight into societal norms and expectations.

The annotation also addresses the role of oral tradition in the preservation and dissemination of these stories, emphasizing the importance of storytellers in shaping and adapting narratives to fit contemporary audiences. By examining both canonical texts and lesser-known tales, the research aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the epic qualities that define English folk tales and their impact on cultural identity and heritage.

Keywords: *English folklore, epic tales, fairy tales, artistic characteristics, compositional elements, historical context, cultural context, social context, structure, themes, motifs, aesthetic qualities, enduring appeal.*

АННОТАЦИЯ. *Это исследование посвящено художественным и композиционным элементам, которые определяют эпические произведения в рамках английского фольклора, особенно сказок. Оно исследует исторические, культурные и социальные контексты, которые сформировали создание и передачу этих повествований. Изучая происхождение и эволюцию английских народных сказаний, исследование подчеркивает, как эти повествования отражают ценности, верования и опыт тех сообществ, из которых они возникли.*

Посредством критического анализа их структуры, тем и мотивов исследование стремится пролить свет на уникальные эстетические качества и долговечную привлекательность английских эпических сказаний. Ключевые

характеристики, такие как наличие сверхъестественных элементов, архетипических персонажей и противостояние добра и зла, исследуются для понимания их значимости в более широком контексте английского фольклора. Кроме того, исследование рассматривает, как эти истории часто служат моральными уроками или предостерегающими рассказами, давая представление о социальных нормах и ожиданиях.

Аннотация также затрагивает роль устной традиции в сохранении и распространении этих историй, подчеркивая важность сказителей в формировании и адаптации повествований для современных аудиторий. Изучая как канонические тексты, так и менее известные сказания, исследование стремится предоставить всесторонний обзор эпических качеств, которые определяют английские народные сказания, и их влияние на культурную идентичность и наследие.

Ключевые слова: *английский фольклор, эпические сказания, сказки, художественные характеристики, композиционные элементы, исторический контекст, культурный контекст, социальный контекст, структура, темы, мотивы, эстетические качества, долговечная привлекательность.*

ANNOTATSIYA. *Ushbu tadqiqot ingliz folklori, xususan ertaklar doirasidagi epik asarlarni belgilaydigan badiiy va kompozitsion elementlarga bag‘ishlangan. Tadqiqot ushbu hikoyalarni yaratish va tarqatishga ta’sir qilgan tarixiy, madaniy va ijtimoiy kontekstlarni o‘rganadi. Ingliz xalq ertaklarining kelib chiqishi va evolyutsiyasini o‘rganib, tadqiqot ushbu hikoyalar u paydo bo‘lgan jamoalarning qadriyatlari, e’tiqodlari va tajribalarini qanday aks ettirishini ta’kidlaydi.*

Ularning tuzilishi, mavzulari va motivlarini tanqidiy tahlil qilish orqali tadqiqot ingliz epik ertaklarining o‘ziga xos estetik sifatlari va uzoq muddatli jozibasini yoritishga intiladi. G‘ayritabiiy elementlarning mavjudligi, arxetipik qahramonlar va yaxshilik va yomonlik o‘rtasidagi kurash kabi asosiy xususiyatlar kengroq ingliz folklori kontekstida ularning ahamiyatini tushunish uchun o‘rganiladi. Bundan tashqari, ushbu hikoyalar ko‘pincha axloqiy saboq yoki ogohlantiruvchi hikoya sifatida xizmat qilishi va ijtimoiy me’yorlar va kutishlarga oid tushunchalarni taqdim etishi tahlil qilinadi.

Annotatsiyada, shuningdek, ushbu hikoyalarni saqlash va tarqatishda og‘zaki an’ananing roli ham ko‘rib chiqiladi, hikoyachilarning zamonaviy tinglovchilar uchun hikoyalarni shakllantirish va moslashtirishdagi muhim roli ta’kidlanadi. Kanonik matnlar va kam tanilgan ertaklarni o‘rganish orqali tadqiqot ingliz xalq ertaklarini belgilaydigan epik xususiyatlar va ularning madaniy o‘zlik va merosga ta’siriga oid keng qamrovli tahlilni taqdim etishni maqsad qilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: *ingliz folklori, epik ertaklar, ertaklar, badiiy xususiyatlar, kompozitsion elementlar, tarixiy kontekst, madaniy kontekst, ijtimoiy kontekst, tuzilma, mavzular, motivlar, estetik sifatlar, uzoq muddatli joziba.*

INTRODUCTION

Epic works, including fairy tales, are distinguished by their enduring appeal and their ability to serve as a rich source of inspiration for subsequent literary endeavors. While the length of these works may vary, their primary focus lies in their artistic and imaginative content, rather than in their sheer size. Fairy tales, in particular, often reflect the dreams, hopes, and aspirations of the people who create and transmit them. As such, they continue to resonate with audiences across generations, providing a timeless exploration of human nature and the complexities of life.

Fairy tales are a versatile genre that can convey a wide range of messages, including moral lessons, cultural values, and social commentary. Through their vivid characters, captivating plots, and symbolic imagery, fairy tales offer a unique window into the human psyche and the collective imagination. The recurring themes of good versus evil, triumph over adversity, and the power of hope and perseverance demonstrate the enduring relevance of these narratives.

In line with V.G. Gusev's observation, fairy tales often provide a fantastical resolution to the challenges and conflicts that individuals and societies face. By presenting these issues through a lens of magic and wonder, fairy tales offer a cathartic experience and a sense of hope for a better future.[1]

Fairy Tales: A Comparative Analysis

Fairy tales, as a subgenre of folklore, often feature supernatural elements such as fairies, goblins, and royalty. These narratives have been transmitted orally and in written form across generations, resulting in numerous variations and adaptations. A comparative analysis of fairy tales reveals a rich tapestry of cultural and historical influences, as well as shared themes and motifs that transcend national boundaries.

English folklore offers a unique perspective on the social functions and cultural significance of fairy tales. These narratives often reflect the values, beliefs, and aspirations of English society, providing insights into the evolution of English thought and lifestyle. The popular fairy tale "Grandmother and the Yeti Gnome" exemplifies this, showcasing the distinctive characteristics of English folklore.

In English tradition, gnomes are often associated with love, wisdom, and protection. This symbolism is evident in the tale, where a young girl seeking refuge from a tyrannical mother finds solace and support from these benevolent creatures. The

[1] https://inspirehep.net/authors/2153352

motif of the girl's encounter with the gnomes suggests a sense of security, friendship, and supernatural intervention.

While the tale includes unique elements found in English literature, it also shares common themes and motifs with fairy tales from other cultures. The recurring image of the cruel stepmother, prevalent in fairy tales such as "Cinderella" and "Rapunzel," is also present in "Grandmother and the Yeti Gnome." This shared motif highlights the universality of certain human experiences and the enduring appeal of these narratives.

Furthermore, fairy tales often exhibit a phenomenon known as syncretism, where elements from different cultural traditions are blended together. This can be observed not only in the imagery but also in the overarching themes and plots. The motif of the prince rescuing the princess, for example, is a common thread in fairy tales from various cultures. Similarly, the mirror motif in "Snow white and the Seven Dwarfs" echoes similar elements found in other tales.

The Mirror of Truth and Compositional Consistency

The fairy tale “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” serves as a reflection of the hopes, desires, and challenges faced by the English people. The honest and unyielding mirror within the tale symbolizes the importance of truth, even in the face of adversity. This motif suggests a longing for guidance and support during difficult times.

The mirror motif is not exclusive to Western folklore; similar elements can be found in Eastern folk tales as well. This shared theme underscores the universality of the human experience and the enduring appeal of storytelling.

In addition to the mirror motif, the fairy tale exhibits a consistent compositional structure that is common in many folk tales. The recurring opening phrase "Once upon a time" establishes a sense of timeless wonder, while the concluding words "Finally, so" often signify a happy resolution. This structural consistency provides a familiar framework that allows audiences to engage with the narrative and anticipate its outcome.[2]

Symbolic Characters in English Folk Tales

English folk tales often feature a diverse array of characters, including anthropomorphic animals, inanimate objects, and human figures. These characters serve not only as narrative elements but also as symbolic representations of cultural values and moral lessons.

The popular fairy tale "The Three Little Pigs" is a prime example of the symbolic nature of folk tale characters. The three pigs, each representing a different

[2] 1. Bekchanova N. Linguistic-cultural characteristics of the folklore text (in the comparative example of English and Uzbek fairy tales) "Science and Education" Scientific Journal / Impact Factor 3,848 (SJIF) February 2023 / Volume 4 Issue 2. B. 1664

level of preparedness and resourcefulness, face the threat of a predatory wolf. The tale highlights the importance of diligence, perseverance, and building a strong foundation. The wolf, on the other hand, symbolizes the dangers of aggression, impulsiveness, and unchecked ambition.

The ultimate victory of the resourceful pig over the wolf reinforces the idea that while invaders may initially appear successful, their dominance is ultimately unsustainable. The tale suggests that justice will prevail, and those who defend their homeland with courage and determination will ultimately triumph.

The concluding line, "The little pig lived happily ever after in his safe little house of bricks," emphasizes the importance of security, resilience, and the rewards of hard work.

Prose Works of English Folklore: A Cultural Reflection

The prose works of English folklore offer a rich tapestry of cultural and historical insights. These narratives reflect the aspirations, values, and intellectual pursuits of the English people, showcasing their unique characteristics, religious beliefs, and evolving worldview.

The epic works within English folklore exhibit a remarkable blend of cultural influences, demonstrating the phenomenon of syncretism and artistic synthesis. This interplay of diverse elements reflects the complex nature of inter-ethnic relations and the interconnectedness of human cultures.

Conclusion

The analysis of epic works within English folklore reveals a rich tapestry of cultural, historical, and artistic elements. These narratives serve as a valuable source of insight into the values, beliefs, and aspirations of the English people. Through their exploration of themes such as good versus evil, perseverance, and the power of hope, fairy tales and other epic works continue to resonate with audiences across generations.[3]

The analysis also highlights the interconnectedness of cultures and the phenomenon of syncretism in storytelling. The shared motifs and themes found in fairy tales from various cultures demonstrate the universality of certain human experiences and the enduring appeal of these narratives.

Furthermore, the study reveals the symbolic nature of characters and the compositional elements that contribute to the enduring appeal of epic works. These narratives offer a blend of entertainment, education, and cultural reflection, making them a valuable resource for understanding the past and shaping the future.

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