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PRINCIPLES OF CRITICAL REALISM AND NATURALISM IN THE WORKS OF JACK LONDON “MARTIN EDEN” AND THEODORE DREISER “GENIUS”

Annotation

The article examines the creative path of two great American realist writers of the 20th century - Theodore Dreiser and Jack London. A comparison is made of their philosophical ideas, namely the continuity of Nietzscheanism and positivism. The unanimous debunking of the “American Dream” in the works of both authors is explained. Similarities are found in the life path of the main characters of the works “The Trilogy of Desire” and “Martin Eden”, Frank Cowper wood and Martin Eden, respectively. Arguments are given to identify the connection between the works of Dreiser and London.

Key words: Dreiser, trilogy, Eden, Cowper wood, positivism, superman, American dream, Spencer, Nietzsche.

JEK LONDON “MARTIN EDEN” VA TEODOR DRAYZER “DOHIY” ASARLARIDA TANQIDIY REALIZM VA NATURALIZM PRINSIPLARI

Annonatsiya

Maqolada 20-asrning ikki buyuk amerikalik realist yozuvchilari - Teodor Drayzer va Jek Londonning ijodiy yo'li ko'rib chiqiladi. Ularning falsafiy g'oyalari, ya'ni nitsshianizm va pozitivizmning davomiyliqi taqqoslanadi. Ikkala muallifning asarlarida "Amerika orzusi" ning bir ovozdan rad etilishi tushuntirilgan. O'xshashliklar mos ravishda "Istak trilogiyasi" va "Martin Iden" asarlarining bosh qahramonlari, Frenk Kauper Vud va Martin Idenning hayot yo'lida uchraydi. Drayzer va London asarlari o'rtasidagi bog'liqlikni aniqlash uchun dalillar keltiriladi.

Kalit so'zlar: Drayzer, trilogiya, Eden, Kauper Wood, pozitivizm, supermen, Amerika orzusi, Spenser, Nitsshe.

ПРИНЦИПЫ КРИТИЧЕСКОГО РЕАЛИЗМА И НАТУРАЛИЗМА В ПРОИЗВЕДЕНИЯХ ДЖЕКА ЛОНДОНА «МАРТИН ИДЕНА» И ТЕОДОРА ДРАЙЗЕРА «ГЕНИЙ»

Аннотация

В статье рассматривается творческий путь двух великих американских писателей-реалистов XX века – Теодора Драйзера и Джека Лондона. Проводится сравнение их философских идей, а именно преемственности ницшеанства и позитивизма. Объясняется единодушное развенчание «американской мечты» в творчестве обоих авторов. Сходство обнаруживается в жизненном пути главных героев произведений «Трилогия желаний» и «Мартин Иден», Фрэнка Каупера Вуда и Мартина Идена соответственно. Приводятся аргументы, позволяющие выявить связь творчества Драйзера и Лондона.

Ключевые слова: Драйзер, трилогия, Иден, Каупервуд, позитивизм, сверхчеловек, американская мечта, Спенсер, Ницше.

Introduction. The rapid growth of realistic literature in America at the beginning of the 20th century was marked by the publication of works by a whole galaxy of talented writers, including Theodore Dreiser and Jack London. Despite the fact that there is no reliable information about the connection between the works of these authors, many researchers indirectly point to it in their scientific works. In this article we will attempt to compare the works of two writers using the example of their life path, philosophical preferences and the material of the works “The Trilogy of Desire” (Dreiser) and “Martin Eden” (London).

Literature review. Y.N. Zasursky called the writers “wonderful artists” who debunked “the uncrowned kings of the “country of the yellow devil”” and denounced the times when the dominance of monopolies was established in society. Like Dreiser, London experienced the failure of the “American Dream” and the hardship of life for a talented person in a capitalist society. By introducing characters “from the people” into their novels, both authors also contributed to “the enrichment of the literary language with elements of living colloquial speech”.

S.S. Baturin noted that during difficult times for Dreiser, when his novels were banned from publication, Jack London was one of the writers who joined the official protest in defense of Dreiser. The researcher also notes an interesting fact - during the years of living in California, Dreiser had a close friendship with the poet George Stirling, who introduced him to the literary world of San Francisco. It was Stirling, according to American literary scholars, who later became the prototype of Russ Brissenden in London’s novel “Martin Eden”. Martin Eden himself, in turn, was “a reflection of the typical circumstances of the lives of many famous American writers”, including London himself and Dreiser.

In addition, S.S. Baturin noted the similarity of the attitude of Dreiser and London to journalism of that time - actively working in this area and at the same time knowing the dark sides of real life, the authors discovered “a sharp discrepancy between real life and its depiction on the pages of American magazines”. The types of works of both authors were the result of close observation of real life. Both writers conveyed their truthful correspondent observations in a series

of essays (Dreiser - about New York, London - "People of the Abyss").

Research methodology. The teachings of Herbert Spencer influenced both Theodore Dreiser and Jack London. Acquaintance with his concept had the effect of a bomb exploding on Dreiser's consciousness ("Spencer, whose introductory volume to his Synthetic Philosophy ("First Principles") quite blew me, intellectually, to bits"). Richard Lehane in Theodore Dreiser. His world and his novels" noted that it was under the influence of Spencer's philosophy of positivism that Dreiser realized that a person always wants what he does not have, and that all his desires cannot come true, since the world is full of prohibitions; that a person's life is not in his hands, but at the mercy of various chemical processes in the universe. In the book "Dictionary of Literary Biography" it was mentioned that, reading Spencer, Dreiser came to the conclusion about the powerlessness of man before the laws of life and the futility of striving to achieve incredible heights, because no one knows what it can do turn around later.

As a result, Dreiser portrayed in The Trilogy of Desire a hero endowed with an exceptional will to power, a strong personality who made himself such, a cold-blooded businessman for whom all means are good if they help achieve power and wealth. At the same time, the collapse of the titan Frank Cowper wood, which ends the trilogy, convincingly demonstrates that, from Dreiser's point of view, immorality inevitably leads an individual to self-destruction. After all, any person, according to Dreiser, no matter how strong he may be, is by nature weak and doomed to the collapse of all hopes.

For the main character of London's novel Martin Eden, Spencer's views became the basis of his philosophy of life ("And this same Spencer painted him a coherent picture of the world, brought all his knowledge together, clarified the basic facts, and the universe appeared so clearly before his amazed gaze..."). Like Dreiser, London considered the most important goal of evolution to maintain a balance between progress and decay, since this is precisely what he saw as the harmony of the spiritual nature of the individual. Also natural for London was the process of struggle for human survival in the real world.

Analysis and results. The writer interpreted life as a struggle for survival in a world that is hostile to man; drew an analogy between the animal world and the human world: "the strongest survive, but the least adapted and weak die". This principle was most clearly manifested in London's novel "Martin Eden", where, using the example of the main character, the conflict of a single individual and an alien social environment is clearly depicted ("In the struggle for existence... the strongest wins, but the weak is condemned to death!", "The world belongs to the strong, who are as noble as they are powerful, and who despise the herd of traders and shopkeepers").

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These ideas expressed by the main character are consonant with the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche. The heroes of London's books represent the bearers of the "will to live", strong personalities challenging the "inert majority vegetating in inaction". Wolf Larsen and Martin Eden are the artistic embodiment of Nietzsche's concept of the "superman" in its American interpretation, perceived in the context of the idea of the "new Adam" and the "American Dream", but in a clash with reality they lose the battle.

At the same time, in Nietzsche's ideas about the "superman" and Dreiser saw the embodiment of his own dream of becoming a successful and powerful person who confidently goes to power, not paying attention to the suffering of other people. In creating The Trilogy of Desire, Dreiser endowed Frank Cowper wood with traits that echoed Nietzsche's concept of the "superman". The second novel in the series even has Chapter XX, entitled "Man and Superman," which talks about Cowper wood's superiority and his talented manipulation of ordinary people.

When comparing the novel "Martin Eden" and "Trilogy of Desire", one can notice a parallel in the development of the images of the main characters. Individualists Martin and Frank are defeated in the fight against society; their "superpower" does not help them overcome the laws of life, resulting in disappointment in the "American Dream" and awareness of the futility of their activities. At the end of the journey, both heroes understand that those around them recognize them only as famous people, owners of large fortunes and are absolutely not interested in their inner world, feelings, experiences.

In addition, both characters sought to experience beauty in all its forms - be it beautiful poetry, a novel, a painting, music or a beautiful woman.

A woman appears in the lives of both Frank and Martin (Berenice and Ruth, respectively), who turns the hero's worldview 180 degrees and forces him to turn to those sides of his soul that were previously unknown to him. These women become angels for them, showing the way to a new life (in Frank's case, this is the acquisition of spiritual harmony and awareness of the futility of the "gold rush"; in Martin's case, self-development and conquering professional heights in the literary world).

Conclusions and suggestions. Thus, despite the fact that there are no direct indications of the connection between the works of Dreiser and London, what is undoubted is the appeal of both authors to the same philosophical movements (Nietzscheanism and positivism), the repeated intersection of the authors' life paths (mutual acquaintances, mutual positive reviews of each other's works), as well as a similar understanding of the structure of life and human society in a number of aspects.