

THE CONCEPT OF KINDNESS IN J.R. TOLKIENS'S "THE LORD OF THE RINGS"

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ABSTRACT:

The concept of kindness has a great axiological value in all cultures of the world, this is especially evident in the works of the authors of fantasy genre, in particular, in the novel "The Lord of the Rings" by J.R.R. Tolkien. The research carried out in this article has revealed that the figurative component of the concept of kindness is explicated in the novel using the following stylistic means: metaphor, epithet, comparison, oxymoron.

This concept is one of the important aspects of all fantasy works written by writer, such as "The Lord of the Rings" by Tolkien. The undertaken research expresses such concept with the help of different stylistic means.

Key words: *concept, metaphor, epithet, simile, oxymoron.*

INTRODUCTION

The concept of kindness has its own way of expression in any culture. It occupies a special place in the works of Fantasy, in particular in the novel by J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings". Therefore, the description of this concept based on the material of this work is especially interesting. According to many scientists, the concept has three components: conceptual (content plan), meaningful (expression plan) and figurative. The information content of many concepts, including the concept of kindness, is close to the content of the dictionary definition of the concept key word. KIND adj - 1 good; 2 morally right; 3 enjoyable; pleasant.

Mainly we will consider the figurative components of the kind for the patterns of the novel by J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings". The undertaken research made it possible to single out a large number of stylistic means used in the novel to explicate the figurative component of the concept of kindness, among which metaphor, epithet, comparison, oxymoron and growth are especially frequent. Each of them is discussed in more details below.

Following L.L. Nelyubin, the metaphorical means in the article, a word or a phrase that is used in a figurative meaning based on the similarity in any relation of two objects or phenomena. The purpose of the metaphor lies not in the simple name of an object or phenomenon, but in its expressive characteristic. Metaphor is one of the means of figurative display of reality and is often viewed as one of the ways to accurately reflect reality in artistic terms. By creating an exact image of an abstract concept, it gives the possibility of different interpretations of the content of the message.

MAIN PART

During the analysis of the linguistic implementation of the concept of kindness in the novel the following metaphors were highlighted for "The Lord of the Rings": *tips of the trees' fingers; pale-blue eyes of forget-me-nots; eyes flashed* and others.

Let us consider the following example: «A bright fire was on the hearth, but the sun was warm, and the wind was in the South. Everything looked fresh, and the new green of Spring was shimmering in the fields and on the tips of the trees' fingers».

This passage describes a sunny, spring day in Hobbitania, a beautiful green country where a cheerful and good-natured people live. In spring everything is fresh, everything is renewed, young greenery sparkles in the bright sunlight, and the tops of the trees are curl. Everything is saturated with an atmosphere of kindness. This impression is reinforced by the metonymy green of Spring used by the author and the metaphor - tips of the

trees' fingers, which evokes the idea of something childishly tender, fragile, young, like the fingers of a newborn baby; about something new, full of freshness of life, translucent from light and warm, like a baby's skin.

«In a chair, at the far side of the room facing the outer doors, sat a woman. Her long yellow hair rippled down her shoulders; her gown was green, green as young reeds, shot with silver like beads of dew; and her belt was of gold, shaped like a chain of flag-lilies set with the pale-blue eyes of forget-me-nots. About her feet in wide vessels of green and brown earthenware, white water-lilies were floating, so that she seemed to be enthroned in the midst of a pool».

This passage describes a beautiful princess Zolotinka, the wife of the merry fellow and kind-hearted Tom Bombadil, who helps the hobbits on their terrible, but important journey in the name of saving all that is good in Middle Earth. The beauty of a princess flowing with light is like a stream; she is as tender as a flower lily, like bright blue forget-me-nots, and as fresh as a soft green reed. She is light, and kindness is about her only. And everything around her blooms and turns green. This impression is conveyed by such comparisons as: gown was green, green as young reeds; silver like beads of dew; shaped like a chain of flag-lilies and a metaphor - pale-blue eyes of forget-me-nots, which describe bright, light, youthful, and evoke thoughts about summer, about the sun, about the freshness of the wind and morning dew, which scattered like silver across the fields, about the river shining in golden rays, on which water lilies float like little crowns; about the triumph of life and spring.

Another important stylistic device used in the novel is the epithet. According to Nelyubin, an epithet is a word or phrase that defines an object or action and emphasizes some characteristic property or quality in them. It is considered by many researchers as the main means of affirming an individual, subjective-evaluative attitude to the described phenomenon.

During the analysis of the representation of the concept of kindness in the novel "The Lord of the Rings" the following epithets were identified: silver beard; snowy brows; glimmering deeps, eyes were bright and keen, etc.

Let us analyze the following example: "Gandalf was shorter in stature than the other two; but his long white hair, his sweeping silver beard, and his broad shoulders, made him look like some wise king of ancient legend. In his aged face under great snowy brows his dark eyes were set like coals that could leap suddenly into fire "

This passage describes one of the main positive characters of the novel - Gandalf, a powerful good wizard who helps the peoples of Middle Earth to fight the evil. He is old, his hair is sprinkled with silver for many centuries, for even the most ancient of kings do not remember him as young. But he is still full of strength and wise, and his keen eyes under snowy eyebrows are like coals, ready to burst into a bright flame at any moment. The great power contained in him, Gandalf uses not for evil and not for his own benefit, but solely in order to help others. His heart is capable of compassion not only for friends, but also for enemies. He embodies the forces of good. While describing this features the author used the following stylistic means: epithets - silver beard; snowy brows; comparison - dark eyes were set like coals, and the metaphor leap suddenly into fire create a majestic, shining like snow on the tops of the mountains, the image of a wizard. There is something cold, beautiful, sparkling with silver and the purity of the first snow, and the mystery of ancient legends, and the power of light magic, which ignites the eyes with a bright fire.

«Frodo ran to the eastern window, and found himself looking into a kitchen-garden grey with dew. He had half expected to see turf right up to the walls, turf all pocked with hoof-prints. Actually his view was screened by a tall line of beans on poles; but above and far beyond them the grey top of the hill loomed up against the sunrise. It was a pale morning: in the East, behind long clouds like lines of soiled wool stained red at the edges, lay

glimmering deeps of yellow. The sky spoke of rain to come; but the light was broadening quickly, and the red flowers on the beans began to glow against the wet green leaves».

The above given passage describes a morning in the Eternal Forest, with Tom Bombadil, a kind, immortal being who helps hobbits in the fight against evil. The Earth is dull gray with dew, since the sun has not yet silvered it, and the morning seems pale, foggy, but somewhere in the distance, behind cotton clouds with a scarlet border, a golden dawn is already beginning - it, like a light of hope, shines through gloomy clouds, gilding heavenly distances and foliage damp with dew. And although it is going to rain, the dawn is getting brighter, and among the greenery flowers are burning. Everything around is saturated with the bright, warm light of hope of the dawn of a new day. This impression is conveyed by the following stylistic means used by the author in this passage: epithets: glimmering deeps; pale morning and comparison - long clouds like lines of soiled wool.

Comparison is one of the stylistic devices related to the epithet. According to Nelyubin, comparison is a device that is used to compare two objects or phenomena that have any common feature in order to explain one of them with the help of the other. It is a powerful mean characterizing phenomena and objects of reality and largely contributes to the disclosure of the author's worldview, revealing the subjective-evaluative attitude of the writer to the facts of objective reality. During the analysis, the representations of the concept of kindness in the novel were described with the following comparisons revealed in the work: soft as butter hobbit can be, and yet sometimes as tough as old tree-roots; her gown was green, green as young reeds, shot with silver like beads of dew; her belt was of gold, shaped like a chain of flag-lilies; dark eyes were set like coals; voice like music; hair was dark as the shadows of twilight; eyes were gray as a clear evening; in his eyes was a light like the light of stars; he seemed as a king crowned with many winters; he was hale as a tried warrior; he may become like a glass filled with a clear light; light of stars was in her bright eyes, gray as a cloudless night his face was lit as by a fire within; grass and rushes like a cow going down to drink; face was red as a ripe apple.

According to I. R. Galperin, oxymoron, like other stylistic devices, is usually used for a more vivid characterization, description of an object, phenomenon, facts of the surrounding life. They are rare. However, the rarity of their usage does not diminish their great expressive power, since oxymoron is sometimes able to reveal internal contradictions inherent in the very phenomena and facts of reality. During the analysis of the representation of the concept of kindness in the novel, the following oxymoron was revealed - white twilight.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of the figurative components of the concept of kindness was carried out on the basis of the novel by J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings", as it is one of the most striking examples of the description of good versus evil in modern literature. This confrontation is all-encompassing and is resolved at several levels, including at the level of the figurative system. The study made it possible to reveal the following features:

- To explicate the figurative components in the novel, stylistic means such as oxymoron, parallel constructions, comparisons, epithets, metaphor and metaphorical comparison are used.
- The most common in the novel "The Lord of the Rings" are the following stylistic means: comparisons, metaphors and epithets; however, oxymoron is less frequent.
- During the analysis of the figurative component of the concept of kindness it was revealed that Tolkien often uses several different stylistic means in one sentence. The most frequently combined stylistic means are: epithets with comparisons and metaphors with comparisons.

The analysis made it possible to reveal some specificity of the perception of the concept of kindness by the native speakers of the English language, as well as the peculiarities of the explication of its figurative component with the help of stylistic means on the example of the novel by J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings".

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