

THE PRESENCE OF A PARADOX IN EVELYN WAUGH'S WORKS

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Annotation

In the XIXth and XXth centuries a paradox became a fundamental principle of the structure of a literary work. It can be found in Bernard Shaw's and Oscar Wilde's works as the basic principle of ontological existence.

In the late 20th of the XXth century engaging in literature Evelyn Waugh continued his literary predecessors' traditions. He featured the presence of a paradox, which is not only "mode of existence", but also "the existence of human being" in his works.

Keywords: paradox, criticism, "Black Mischief", "A Handful of Dust", "Scoop".

It should be noted that Evelyn Waugh's paradox not only determines the national traditions, but also associates with the outlook of the era of Modern Age. In England, a new literary movement emerged and led by A.Richards, F.R.Leavis, K.Brooks, T.S.Eliot, Evelyn Waugh and was called as the New Criticism. The representatives of this trend studied various forms of paradox as a literary phenomenon. "The New Critics advocated 'close reading' and detailed textual analysis of poetry rather than an interest in the mind and personality of the poet, sources, the history of ideas and political and social implications. The application of semantics to this criticism was also important"[1;565].

J.Hastings, M.Stannard, C.Sykes, A.Waugh's biographical approach works and E.Waugh's all diaries "The Diaries", "A little learning. An autobiography" help to comprehend "original profundity" of his works, to create a psychological portrait, to reconstruct his creative process. Contextual integrity is characterized in E.Waugh's 5 novels: "Decline and Fall" (1928), "Vile Bodies" (1930), "Black Mischief" (1932), "A Handful of Dust" (1934), "Scoop" (1938). These novels were created in the first 10 years of his literary activity (1928-1938) and characterized as a unity of ideological foundations.

The paradox of Evelyn Waugh refers to the "eternal" images like "Game", "The Circle", "Death", "House", "City" and the author presents a traditional feature of a paradox throughout his works. Archetypes which are "The Circle", "Games", "Death", "Home", "City" can be found almost in all his works.

"Archetype, a symbol, theme, setting, or character-type that recurs in different times and places in myth, literature, folklore, dreams, and rituals so frequently or prominently as to suggest that it embodies some essential elements of "universal" human experience" [2;19].

E. Waugh's archetypes are universal, but at the same time cultural models. The archetype game can be found in the novels "Decline and Fall", "Vile Bodies", "Black Mischief", "A Handful of Dust", "Scoop". In his "Decline and Fall" the author uses the archetype carnival. For instance: appearing and disappearing characters, fool deaths. For him carnival is not only one of the first principles of reality, but also it is a human's response to the socio-cultural reality.

Archetypes home and city are connected with the problem of ideal in the works of Evelyn Waugh. The writer presents Stately Houses as aristocrats' ancient hometowns. For instance: King's Thursday in "Decline and Fall", Hetton in "A Handful of Dust", Tappok Magna Hall in "Scoop", Melfi in "Put Out More Flags", Brideshead in "Brideshead Revisited".

To begin with, King's Thursday, best monument of Tudor's architecture, is the palace of Pastmaster's for three centuries. The author depicts this place ironically in his "Decline and Fall". He gives a description of King's Thursday as "For three centuries the poverty and inertia of this noble family had preserved its home unmodified by any of the succeeding fashions that fell upon domestic architecture. No wing had been added, no window filled in; no portico, facade, terrace, orangery, tower, or battlement marred its timbered front. In the craze for coal-gas and indoor sanitation, King's Thursday had slept unscathed by plumber or engineer" [3]. The last sentence which portraits King's Thursday is sleeping unscathed by plumber or engineer is full of irony. This sentence can define that King's Thursday is very old and it can be scathed by plumber or engineer.

M. Stannard, Evelyn Waugh's biographer, regards that Evelyn Waugh can't stand Tudor's architecture. "In 1929 E. Waugh reviewed the translation of a book which had been written by Le Korbyuzye and praised the project of future cities. King's Thursday was derided from as a typical product of Victoria's mess. Waugh also laughed at Professor Silenus's (character of "Decline and Fall") machines, but it didn't signify he preferred tradition and satirized Modern Age"[4;224].

Thus we see that, E. Waugh uses these paradoxes purposely, by giving them he makes his "comic" be "tragic". Reading and analyzing his works we can laugh at his characters, afterwards we can feel sorry about them.

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