

FOLK PROVERBS IN THE WORKS OF RUSSIAN WRITERS

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Annotation. The article examines the role and significance of proverbs in the works of Russian writers. Proverbs, being an integral part of folk culture, are actively used by authors to convey folk wisdom, philosophical generalizations, create realism in the speech of characters and enhance national color. The analysis demonstrates how, through proverbs, Russian writers connect their works with folk traditions, reveal philosophical and moral ideas, and also give the texts emotional expressiveness and depth.

Key words: proverbs, sayings, folk wisdom, national color, philosophy, irony, satire, cultural traditions, Russian folklore, literary images

1. INTRODUCTION

Proverbs and sayings are an integral part of folk wisdom that has been passed down from generation to generation. In Russian literature, they occupy a special place and are used to emphasize important ideas, enhance the expressiveness of the text and convey the people's worldview. Russian writers, from classics to modern authors, actively used proverbs in their works, which makes them more lively, dynamic and close to the reader.

One of the main ways to use proverbs in literary works is their connection with characters. Through proverbs, writers demonstrate the worldview, way of thinking and character of their heroes.

2. METHODS

In the novel in verse by A. S. Pushkin "Eugene Onegin" proverbs and sayings play an important role, complementing the artistic fabric of the work, giving it a folk flavor and enhancing the philosophical depth. Pushkin uses them not only to describe the characters, but also to create a certain mood, emphasize universal truths, and reveal his author's thoughts. Let's consider how and why the author includes them in the text: Proverbs in the novel help convey simple but profound truths expressed in the language of the people. For example: «Нечего на зеркало пенять, коли рожа крива» — This proverb appears in Chapter II, stanza VIII, where the author reflects ironically on fashionable habits and human weaknesses. It emphasizes people's tendency to blame external circumstances for their own shortcomings. Proverbs help to show the characters' thinking, their social status, and their closeness (or distance) from folk culture: The simplicity and sincerity of Tatyana Larina: Pushkin uses proverbs to emphasize her connection with folk culture, since she grew up in a village. Her image is surrounded by folk songs, fortune-telling, legends, and everyday truths. Exposing the vanity and snobbery of high society: Through

proverbs, as in the example above, Pushkin often contrasts the simplicity of folk wisdom with the artificiality of secular customs. The use of proverbs in the text allows the author to emphasize an ironic attitude toward the events or characters being described. For example, in the moment where Pushkin ridicules literary and everyday clichés, proverbs help him express his criticism succinctly. Some proverbs are introduced into the author's digressions, where Pushkin discusses fate, love, life and time. They help him briefly and succinctly express thoughts that are close and understandable to everyone. For example: «Береги платье снову, а честь смолоду» (глава VII). This proverb emphasizes moral guidelines and calls for careful treatment of reputation.

Труд упорный всё перетрет (глава VIII). It sounds like a motive of perseverance and strength of labor. Pushkin uses proverbs to give the novel a "Russian spirit". They create a feeling that the events take place in real Russia, with its traditions, worldview and foundations. This helps to make the work closer to the reader. Proverbs in "Eugene Onegin" are an important element that helps Alexander Sergeevich combine high literature with folk culture, create a vivid and reliable picture of the era and emphasize the main themes of the novel. They simultaneously perform decorative and semantic functions, making the text brighter, deeper and richer. In Leo Tolstoy's novel "War and Peace" proverbs play a significant role, as they help to reveal the characters, convey folk wisdom and create the atmosphere of the time. Tolstoy uses proverbs for several purposes: Proverbs allow us to understand the inner world of the heroes, their views and values. For example: Simple, folk heroes, such as Platon Karataev, speak the language of proverbs. For Plato, proverbs are the basis of his thinking and worldview, expressing harmony with the world. His famous «Как за печкой тепло, так и на душе светло» reflects a life philosophy of calm and humility. Aristocratic characters, such as Prince Andrei or Pierre, rarely use proverbs. This emphasizes the difference between the common people and the upper class. Tolstoy uses proverbs to show how the people perceive life, war, work and fate. Proverbs become a way to express the spirit of the Russian people:

«Семь раз отмерь, один раз отрежь» — the idea of caution, a balanced approach to action.
«Бог терпел и нам велел» — expresses humility before fate.

The use of proverbs helps Tolstoy convey the atmosphere of the early 19th century. Proverbs, organically woven into the speech of peasants and soldiers, create a sense of the authenticity of their language and way of life. Through proverbs, Tolstoy often conveys his own thoughts about life, fate and freedom. For example, in Platon Karataev, one can find the following expressions:

«Чему быть, того не миновать» — the idea of the predetermination of events, which echoes the author's philosophical reflections on the role of fate in people's lives.

Proverbs are used to contrast the chaos of war with the calm of peaceful life. For example, Karatayev expresses a peaceful, natural way of life through his proverbs, while war is perceived as something alien to folk wisdom.

«Не плюй в колодец — пригодится воды напиться» — calls for a careful attitude towards what may be important in the future.

«Бог не выдаст, свинья не съест» — expresses faith in God's providence and protection.
«Как аукнется, так и откликнется» — the idea of cause and effect in actions.

Proverbs in the novel «Война и мир» perform a variety of functions: they help to reveal the characters, create historical authenticity, convey folk wisdom and express the author's philosophical views. This is not only a means of narration, but also an important element of the overall idea of the work about the harmony of man with the world and the inevitability of fate. N.V. Gogol was a connoisseur and admirer of oral folklore, and his works abound in proverbs, sayings, and aphoristic expressions. N. Gogol uses proverbs to convey the worldview of the common people, their views on life, work, love, poverty, and wealth. The vernacular helps to better understand the soul of his characters and the atmosphere of their world. For example, in the collection “Evenings on a Farm Near Dikanka” there are often proverbs that reflect the everyday philosophy of the Ukrainian peasantry:

«Кто много говорит, тот мало делает».

«Каков пивун, такова и песня».

Proverbs in the speech of the characters help to reveal their character, views and social status. For example: In "Taras Bulba" the Cossacks, representatives of folk culture, speak in figurative, proverbial language. Their speech is filled with turns of phrase expressing fighting spirit and patriotism, for example: "That's what a dashing will is for, so that the Cossack clan is formidable." In the comedy "The Government Inspector" proverbs are found in the remarks of minor officials, which emphasizes their limitations, dependence on clichés and the habit of thinking in stereotypes. Proverbs in Gogol's works are often used to create a comic effect. They help ridicule human vices, bureaucratic stupidity and pettiness. For example, in "The Government Inspector": «Чему быть, того не миновать» — expresses an attempt to calm oneself down in a stupid or awkward situation.

In *Dead Souls*, proverbs are used to characterize the typical vices of Russian landowners. For example: «Береги платье снову, а честь смолоду» sounds ironic coming from characters whose honor leaves much to be desired.

In his works, Gogol often uses proverbs to express his philosophical views on life, fate, good and evil. For example: In «Мертвых душах» the proverb goes: «Не в свои сани не садись», which reflects the idea of the predetermination of human destiny and the danger of violating the natural order. Proverbs in Gogol's works help convey the peculiarities of Ukrainian and Russian folk culture, and emphasize the color of speech. In "Evenings on a Farm Near Dikanka" and "Mirgorod" Ukrainian proverbs are used, for example:

«Дурному не скучно, лишь бы не душно».

«Сыт голодного не разумеет».

In *The Inspector General*, proverbs serve as a means of satire, ridiculing the behavior of officials: “Don’t blame the mirror if your face is crooked” - about the inability to admit one’s

shortcomings. «Держи карман шире» — about greed and the expectation of profit. In In Dead Souls, Gogol uses proverbs to expose the shortcomings of society and convey philosophical reflections: «Соловья баснями не кормят» — about the uselessness of empty words. «Ложка хороша к обеду» — about the timeliness of actions.

Proverbs in the works of N.V. Gogol perform many functions: they help to create a national flavor, reveal the characters' personalities, enhance the satirical tone of the text and express folk philosophy. Gogol masterfully weaves them into his works, which makes the language of his characters lively, figurative and truly folk. Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov actively used proverbs and sayings in his works. This served to enhance artistic expressiveness, reflect the people's worldview and give the text a deeper national flavor. M. Lermontov includes proverbs to convey the living speech of his characters, especially in works that depict ordinary people. For example, in the novel "A Hero of Our Time" they help to reveal the national flavor of the Caucasus and the psychology of the characters. The inclusion of proverbs allows the author to convey philosophical reflections through the prism of folk experience. This can be seen in poems and dramas, where proverbs often express a moral or ironic view of the events described. Proverbs help to express complex feelings or situations succinctly. Through them, Lermontov conveys irony, bitterness or sarcasm. The novel "A Hero of Our Time" uses elements of folk speech, including proverbs and metaphors, for example, when talking about Pechorin's character or describing everyday scenes. In the drama "Masquerade", proverbial motifs are sometimes traced through the characters' lines, emphasizing the drama or sarcastic attitude to what is happening. Thus, Lermontov organically weaves folk wisdom into his works, making them more vivid and convincing. Mikhail Afanasyevich Bulgakov actively used proverbs and sayings in his works, which allows him to convey folk wisdom, give the characters' speech credibility, and also enhance the satirical or philosophical subtext of the text. Proverbs and sayings help Bulgakov emphasize the key ideas of his works and make them closer to the reader. Proverbs become a tool for creating a comic effect or ridiculing the characters, especially in satirical works such as "The Devil's Tale" or "The Fatal Eggs". In Mikhail Bulgakov's novel "The Master and Margarita", proverbs and sayings play an important role. Many proverbs in the text have an ironic or sarcastic tone, echoing the main themes of the novel - the struggle between good and evil, human weaknesses and the problem of choice. «Кирпич ни с того ни с сего на голову никому не свалится» This phrase is spoken by Woland in a conversation with Berlioz. It illustrates the idea of fate and the inevitability of predetermined events. Although it sounds like a reassuring statement, it soon becomes clear that Woland is saying that Berlioz's death has already been decided. The proverb here takes on an ominous and ironic meaning.

«Не гонялся бы ты, поп, за дешевизной». This proverb is heard in the scene with the disappearance of money from Rimsky and Varenuhka, as well as in the episodes with the black magic session at the Variety. It reflects the vice of greed and human avarice, which become the object of satire. Bulgakov uses the proverb to emphasize the moral decline of society, which easily succumbs to temptations. «Без бумажки ты букашка, а с бумажкой — человек» This proverb can be seen in the context of a satirical depiction of Soviet bureaucracy. It is not pronounced verbatim, but corresponds to the bureaucratic logic of characters like Nikanor Ivanovich Bosoy and other officials who live in a world where documentation is more important than people.

«На воре и шапка горит». The proverb is reflected in scenes where corruption, hypocrisy and greed of Soviet citizens are exposed. For example, in the scene with Nikanor

Ivanovich Bosoy, who falls under suspicion because of the currency found in his apartment. «Сколько верёвочке ни виться, а конец будет». This idea is close to the final fate of Berlioz, as well as officials and ordinary people who face the consequences of their actions. Woland and his retinue embody justice, punishing people for their vices, which reflects the popular view of inevitable retribution. Bulgakov in *The Master and Margarita* does not simply use proverbs, but masterfully weaves them into the narrative, giving them new shades of meaning. They help to reveal the depth of the philosophical ideas of the novel, expose human vices and enhance the satirical sound of the work.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The role of proverbs in the works of Russian writers is enormous, as they are an important element of artistic expressiveness, help to create a lively speech of characters, convey folk wisdom and philosophy. Proverbs enrich texts, linking them with the traditions of Russian culture, and serve as a tool for expressing the author's thoughts. Russian writers often turn to proverbs to show stable values and views that exist in the people's consciousness. Proverbs, as laconic formulations of life experience, help authors express key ideas related to the theme of good, evil, justice and fate. The use of proverbs in the speech of characters helps to reveal their worldview, level of education or social affiliation.

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