

## A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE CONCEPT OF "BEAUTY" IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES USING FOLK TALES AS AN EXAMPLE

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**Abstract:** This work is devoted to a comparative study of the concept of "beauty" in English and Russian languages using folk tales as an example. The study aims to identify the peculiarities of perception and interpretation of beauty in these two cultures through literature, namely folk tales. Beauty in fairy tales has always been an important cultural and moral element, often reflecting the ideals and values of society. The article examines various images of beauty, such as external attractiveness, the inner moral character of the characters, as well as the role of beauty in the relationships between the heroes. The main focus is on how English-speaking and Russian-speaking societies convey their ideas about beauty and its meaning through folk tales.

**Keywords:** beauty, folk tales, English language, Russian language, comparative study, cultural differences, image of the heroine, ideals of beauty, morality.

**Introduction.** The concept of beauty is an integral part of human culture and plays a significant role in literature, especially in folk tales. Each culture forms its own idea of beauty, which is reflected in heroic characters, their appearance and moral qualities. This article will conduct a comparative study of the perception of beauty in English and Russian folk tales. The main features that characterize beauty in these two cultures are considered, as well as the influence of these ideas on the morality and behavior of the heroes. Folk tales traditionally serve as a mirror reflecting the cultural and moral norms of society. The beauty of the characters is usually an important element through which the ideal of a person is emphasized, as well as what is acceptable in society. In different cultures, beauty can symbolize not only physical perfection, but also inner qualities such as kindness, honesty and loyalty. In English folk tales, beauty is often associated with virtue. An example is the tale of Cinderella, where the main character, despite her external modesty and difficulties, has inner kindness and purity, which ultimately leads her to happiness and recognition. An important theme of English fairy tales is also the idea of reward for good deeds and justice, where beauty becomes a kind of symbol of righteousness. Such tales often contrast "good" and "evil" characters, where beauty is an external indicator of the inner world. This contrast between physical beauty and inner virtue is an important motif that occurs in many English folk tales. In the fairy tale of Snow White, we also see how the beauty of the main character serves her inner qualities. Snow White, like Cinderella, is an idealized image of feminine beauty and virtue. In contrast, the evil stepmother, jealous of Snow White's beauty, is a symbol of evil, which confirms the moral value of inner beauty. Beauty in English folk tales is often intertwined with elements of magic and sorcery. Beauty becomes a symbol not only of natural attractiveness, but also of magical power that opens doors to other worlds and opportunities. One of the most striking examples is the fairy tale of Sleeping Beauty.

Here, the beauty of the main character is not just physical attractiveness, but also a magical element that influences the fate of her entire life. The magical hibernation in which Sleeping Beauty finds herself becomes a symbol of the fact that beauty is not always available and is perceived as something ephemeral, magical, which requires a special approach and patience. In the fairy tale "The Beautiful

Fairy", the beauty of the characters is also associated with magic and sorcery. In this context, beauty is perceived as something that can be used to achieve one's goals or to subjugate other characters. Often in such tales, the external beauty of the characters is illusory and hides their true essence, as is the case with witches or sorceresses who can hide their ugliness with the help of magic. Beauty in English folk tales plays a central role in the formation of moral and cultural values, as well as in the development of plot lines. It often serves as a symbol of virtue, magic and moral lessons, which makes it an important element of these works. At the same time, beauty in English fairy tales can also be a tool for contrasting good and evil, and its physical attractiveness often becomes a metaphor for the manifestation of the inner strength or weakness of the characters. In general, beauty in these fairy tales is not only an external attribute, but also an important symbol through which the most important cultural and moral ideas are conveyed. The image of beauty in Russian folk tales plays an important role not only as a physical characteristic of the characters, but also as a powerful symbol reflecting the inner world of the heroes. In Russian culture, beauty is inextricably linked with moral values such as kindness, loyalty, courage and patience. At the same time, beauty can serve as a source of happiness and reward, as well as a cause of misfortune and punishment. Thus, in Russian folk tales, beauty is not simply an aesthetic element, but an important symbol through which profound moral and philosophical ideas are conveyed, reflecting the notions of good, evil, and justice in traditional Russian culture. In conclusion, beauty as depicted in English and Russian folk tales offers valuable insights into the cultural, social, and moral structure of these societies. Although both traditions recognize physical beauty, the way it is depicted, valued, and associated with other virtues reveals different cultural attitudes toward beauty, gender, and social roles. In English folk tales, beauty is often an individual trait associated with virtue and social mobility, while in Uzbek folk tales, beauty is intertwined with moral integrity, social responsibility, and modesty. Despite these differences, both cultures emphasize that true beauty is not simply outward appearance, but a reflection of inner qualities that contribute to the well-being of the individual and society. By examining these cultural representations of beauty, we gain a deeper understanding of how folk tales serve as mirrors of cultural values, revealing both universal and culture-specific ideas about beauty, virtue, and identity.

**Conclusion** In conclusion, beauty as depicted in English and Russian folk tales offers valuable insights into the cultural, social, and moral fabric of these societies. Although both traditions recognize physical beauty, the ways in which it is depicted, valued, and associated with other virtues reveal different cultural attitudes toward beauty, gender, and social roles. In English folk tales, beauty is often an individual trait associated with virtue and social mobility, while in Uzbek folk tales, beauty is intertwined with moral integrity, social responsibility, and modesty. Despite these differences, both cultures emphasize that true beauty is not simply an outward appearance, but a reflection of inner qualities that contribute to the well-being of the individual and society. By examining these cultural representations of beauty, we gain a deeper understanding of how folk tales serve as mirrors of cultural values, revealing both universal and culture-specific ideas about beauty, virtue, and identity.

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