

THE AMERICAN SHORT STORY'S EMERGENCE AND DEVELOPMENT

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Kalit so'zlar

Amerika she'riyati, madaniy travma, qissa, miflar, afsonalar, folklorlar, ertaklar, insoniyatning eng dastlabki izchil nutqini aniqlash

Ключевые слова

американская поэзия, культурная травма, рассказ, мифы, легенды, народные сказки, сказки, идентификация самого раннего связного высказывания человечества.

Annotation

The years 1870 to 1920 saw the emergence of American literature, both in terms of practice and perception. In these years, American literature set itself apart from the European tradition to which it had been disparagingly referred for almost a century, both artistically and thematically. As literary critics both inside and outside of the academia started to recognize the inherent qualities of American poetry and prose in the decades that followed the Civil War, American writers also began to receive more and more respect as genuine artists.

Аннотация

Американская литература, как в том, как она практиковалась, так и в том, как она воспринималась, достигла зрелости в период между 1870 и 1920 годами. В эти годы американская письменность стилистически и тематически отличалась от европейской традиции, к которой она относилась пренебрежительно. по сравнению с более чем столетием. Американские авторы также все больше пользовались уважением как серьезные художники в течение десятилетий после Гражданской войны, поскольку литературные критики внутри и за пределами академии начали ценить неотъемлемые достоинства американской поэзии и прозы.

Annotatsiya

Amerika adabiyoti ham amaliyotda, ham uni idrok etishda 1870-1920 yillar oralig'ida voyaga yetdi. Bu yillar davomida Amerika yozuvi o'zini e'tiborsiz qoldirgan Yevropa an'alaridan stilistik va tematik jihatdan ajralib turdi. asrdan ko'proq vaqt davomida taqqoslangan. Fuqarolar urushidan keyingi o'n yilliklarda amerikalik mualliflar jiddiy ijodkor sifatida hurmat qozonishdi, chunki akademiya ichidagi va tashqarisidagi adabiy tanqidchilar Amerika she'riyati va nasrining o'ziga xos xususiyatlarini qadrlay boshladilar.

One of the earliest genres of literature is the short story. For as long as there have been people on this earth, stories have been recounted. It is conceivable that early hominids used storytelling and listening to amuse one another. The origins of short stories can be found in the myths, folklore, folktales, fairy tales, and other similar genres. According to R. C. Fedderson, "Story it is widely

assumed originated somewhere in the misty dawn of language itself." [3, 39] There will never be a way to tell for sure when it all started. It would serve no more purpose than "identifying the earliest coherent utterance of humankind." However, it is undeniable that the short story is the most ancient literary form.

Such short narratives of stories have existed for as long as we can remember. Such narratives have several purposes in the society. They have, besides entertaining and regaling listeners and readers, also sought to preserve the older traditions and norms of human social attitudes. Their importance can be gauged from the fact that they are prescribed in school and college curriculum, they have been read at public readings. One can certainly agree with Shirley Ann Grau that people are still reading short story "like mad."

Among all the literary genres it is the short story that is typically American in tone and temper. Most critics argue that the short story is an American invention. Alfred Bendixen remarks: "The short story is an American invention, and arguably the most important literary genre to have emerged in the United States. Thus, now the American short story is more than two hundred years old. But it is still going strong. One can agree with Irish Critic Frank O'Connor who said," [6, 58]

It began in 1819 with Washington Irving. Not that there were no short stories written or published in America earlier, but from the point of view of modern short story form none of them are significant. Still two names merit mention. They are Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), Freneau and Charles Brockden Brown (1771-1810). Among them Brown is better known. Generally regarded as the first American novelist, Brown is a key figure in the tradition of Gothic fiction, for some of his novels--Edgar Huntley, Wieland, Arthur Mervyn—are responsible for "Americanizing" the Gothic, which in its European incarnation featured imagery (ruined castles,) that was simply non-existent, and hence symbolically inert, in America. Brown shifted the settings of his works to American locales--forests, towns, caves, outlying estates -- and relocated the sources of terror, yet retained a Gothic mood of emotional and psychological extremity.

The period between the American Civil War which began in 1861 and the outbreak of World War I in Europe in 1914 may be termed in the era of the short story in general. Those were the days of the gift books. These gift books were annual collections of poems, artwork and literary criticism, aimed primarily at an audience of upper-class women in England and North America. All modern literary magazines can trace their pedigree back to these gift books. In 1837, Nathaniel Hawthorne collected a number of stories that he had written for the gift book market and published them to great critical acclaim as *Twice Told Tales*. And with that, short stories had arrived. It is a short story collection in two volumes by Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864). The first was published in the spring of 1837, and the second in 1842. The stories had all been previously published in magazines and annuals, hence the name. [18, 96]

Washington Irving (1783-1859) remains the earliest notable writer of distinction of short stories among Americans. He made his literary debut in 1802 with a series of observational letters to the *Morning Chronicle*, written under the pseudonym Jonathan Oldstyle. After moving to England for the family business in 1815, he achieved international fame with the publication of *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent* in 1819-20. He continued to publish regularly—and almost always successfully—throughout his life, and completed a five-volume biography of George Washington just eight months before his death. Irving was fascinated by the art of short fiction and there is no doubt that he did much to perfect the art of short story writing. These stories, in the opinion of Charles Neider have a wonderful tone of nostalgia that one must reckon as flowing from the fact settings are personally so meaningful to Irving, and permeates, affects and ultimately lends beauty to

the style, warming pour imagination as well as the author's... I still find them bewitching, magical, with a great aptness of phrase and metaphor, and with the subtle, delicate, delicious irony that marks Irving's best work.[23, 155]

There is no doubt that Washington Irving perfected the American short story. He was the first American writer to place his stories firmly in the United States, though he ransacked the Dutch and German folklore for his ideas. He is one of the first to write both the vernacular English of America. He never cared for inculcating any moral in his short stories. His aim was pure and simple entertainment of his readers.

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