

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE IMAGE OF THE HERO IN WORLD AND RUSSIAN LITERATURE (USING THE TRAGEDY "HAMLET" AND THE NOVEL "A HERO OF OUR TIME" AS AN EXAMPLE)

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Abstract: This article examines the artistic interpretation of personality in world and Russian literature using William Shakespeare's tragedy Hamlet and Mikhail Lermontov's novel A Hero of Our Time as examples. The characteristics of the characters of Hamlet and Pechorin, their internal conflicts, the philosophical underpinnings of their behavior, and the artistic means of depicting them are analyzed. Similarities and differences between the "superfluous man" and the reflective hero are identified. A conclusion is drawn about the continuity of artistic traditions and the universality of the concept of personality.

Key words: hero image, tragedy, novel, "superfluous man", reflection, psychologism, Shakespeare, Lermontov, comparative literature

Introduction

The problem of personality occupies a central place in world literature. Different eras interpret the role of the individual, their inner world, and their relationship to society in different ways. This is especially evident in works in which the protagonist experiences internal conflict and a search for the meaning of life.

The tragedy "Hamlet" and the novel "A Hero of Our Time" are outstanding examples of world and Russian literature, revealing the complex nature of the human personality. Despite the differences in eras and genres, both works share a focus on the hero's inner world and his struggle with reality.

The relevance of the study is determined by the need to identify the universal traits of a literary hero and analyze their national-specific characteristics.

Theoretical basis of the study

In literary studies, the image of the hero is considered the central element of a literary text. The works of Mikhail Bakhtin emphasize the dialogic nature of the literary image, while the research of Yuri Lotman allows us to analyze the text as a system of signs.

The methodological basis consists of:

- comparative-typological method;
- psychological analysis;
- structural-semantic approach.

The Image of Hamlet: A Tragedy of Reflection

Hamlet is one of the most complex and multifaceted characters in world literature. The tragic hero, Hamlet, is portrayed as a thinking man incapable of decisive action.

Main features of the image:

- deep reflection;
- philosophical understanding of life and death;
- doubt as the basis of behavior.

Hamlet recognizes the imperfections of the world but lacks the strength to change it. His famous question, "to be or not to be," reflects an internal personal crisis.

Thus, the hero's tragedy lies not so much in external circumstances as in internal conflict.

The image of Pechorin: the "superfluous man" type

Pechorin, the hero of the novel *A Hero of Our Time*, is a striking example of a “superfluous man” in Russian literature.

Its main characteristics:

- individualism;
- skepticism;
- psychological inconsistency;
- inability to have harmonious relationships.

Unlike Hamlet, Pechorin is more active, but his actions bring neither himself nor those around him happiness. He recognizes his inner emptiness but makes no effort to overcome it.

Pechorin is a hero of the era of disillusionment, reflecting the crisis of the noble society of the 19th century.

Similarities between the characters of Hamlet and Pechorin

Despite the differences, a number of similarities can be identified between the heroes:

1. Reflexivity

Both heroes are prone to deep introspection and reflection on their actions.

2. Conflict with society

They are opposed to the surrounding world and do not find their place in it.

3. Loneliness

Hamlet and Pechorin are isolated from society, which intensifies their internal crisis.

4. Philosophical orientation of the image

Both heroes express the ideological problems of their era.

Differences in artistic expression

1. Type of conflict

In Hamlet, the conflict is primarily internal, while in Pechorin it manifests itself in actions and relationships with other characters.

2. Hero activity

Hamlet is inclined to reflection, Pechorin to action, although these actions are often destructive.

3. Genre specificity

The tragedy *Hamlet* implies a high level of conventionality and symbolism, while the novel *A Hero of Our Time* is distinguished by psychological authenticity and realism.

4. The outcome of the hero's fate

Hamlet reaches a tragic end, fulfilling his mission, while Pechorin remains internally devastated, not having achieved harmony.

Poetics of works

William Shakespeare's artistic style is characterized by:

- high metaphoricality;
- symbolism;
- philosophical richness.

In turn, Mikhail Lermontov's style is distinguished by:

- psychological depth;
- realism;
- attention to the hero's inner world.

Thus, the difference in poetics is determined by both genre and national characteristics.

The relevance of images in the modern context

The images of Hamlet and Pechorin remain relevant in modern culture. Issues of self-identity, loneliness, and conflict with society remain significant in the 21st century.

Modern man also faces the need to make choices and search for the meaning of life, which makes these images universal.

Conclusion

A comparative analysis of the tragedy Hamlet and the novel A Hero of Our Time allows us to conclude that the images of Hamlet and Pechorin represent different stages of development of a literary hero.

Hamlet embodies the tragedy of thought, while Pechorin embodies the tragedy of action. Both heroes reflect the crisis of their era and simultaneously express the universal problems of human existence.

Thus, world and Russian literature are in dialogue, forming common artistic models for understanding personality.

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