

Рымарь А.И.

*Научный руководитель: ст. преподаватель О.А. Фролова
Муромский институт (филиал) федерального государственного образовательного
учреждения высшего образования «Владимирский государственный университет
имени Александра Григорьевича и Николая Григорьевича Столетовых»
602264, г. Муром, Владимирская обл., ул. Орловская, 23
E-Mail: ann.rymar.studies@gmail.ru*

Linguistic Features of Fiction Prose for Children

It is widely assumed that the children`s literature stands out for its linguistic and thematic singularity. What stylistic patterns can be distinguished in children`s reading material and how these peculiarities reflect on stylistic devices of prose? It seems riveting and challenging to explore this topic in order to identify the essential features of short stories for kinds and reveal the linguistic patterns that characterize this genre. Thus, it would be relevant to perform a linguistic investigation [5].

Novels or they are also called “short stories” belong to prose, however, prose fiction as a dominant form in literature utilizes a lot of poetry. These elements include the wide use of metaphors, alliterations, irony, personification, allegory, hyperbole, onomatopoeia, imageries etc. A novel is a story in which the characters and events are usually imaginary. Writers figuratively compare imaginary with painting made out of words. Thus, playing with words develops interest in reading process and offers a huge potential for the use of various stylistic expressive means that are entertaining and exciting for young readers. [7]

The abundance of children`s fiction prose with various literary devices amazes even experienced readers. It would be opportune to have a closer look on some of the stylistic tropes and figures of speech. Allegory is actually one of the most difficult techniques because it is typically used throughout an entire story, rather than here and there like other techniques. An allegory tells one story, while the underlying meaning transfers to something else. [3] As an example, “The Squire and the Scroll” tells the story of a young squire who must bravely follow the words from his scroll in order to survive and even defeat an evil dragon. The allegory of the story helps young readers to understand the importance of purity and following the Word of God. In this novel, the allegory is also the leitmotif of the whole plot. Hyperbole, otherwise known as exaggeration, is another technique that tends to be used throughout an entire story rather than in just a few places within a story. [3] Many of us would call these stories “tall tales.” Tall tales usually have an element of humor in them. In the novel “Jack and the Beanstalk” by Henry Cole hyperbole is one of the key elements in the image of the giant and his huge house. Ideal example of using idioms are novels about Amelia Bedelia. [6] This girl takes idioms literally. If someone tells her to dress a turkey, she puts clothing on a turkey. Idioms, then, are phrases that shouldn`t really be taken literally like “it is raining cats and dogs.” Irony is another lively and resounding literary device. When something is ironic, it is the opposite of what you would have expected. [2] In the book “Caps for Sale” [4], for instance, the peddler tries and tries to get monkeys to take his caps off of their heads. Ironically, once he gets angry and throws his cap down, the monkeys (mimicking his every move) throw the caps down. It is not at all what the peddler expected. It was ironic that they did what he wanted when he stopped trying.

Moreover, the writers use not only the appearance of the characters, but also their speech to express the nature of the characters. For example, the manner of speech of the protagonist of the children's novel “The BFG” by British novelist Roald Dahl it is extremely rich in neologisms, dialectal words, which revealed his soft, straightforward and kind personality.

It is worth noting that these are linguistic means that make it possible to touch on important and serious issues even in children's novels. Thus, the topics of many stories are similar, but the use of different storytelling styles makes the underlying plot fascinating for children. Some of the most well-regarded novels have been analyzed and considered. The typical storylines raise questions on true friendship (“Peter Pen” by Barrie James Matthew, “The Hobbit” by R. Tolkien), development of the personality and making life choices (“Jack and the Beanstalk” by Henry Cole, “Alice's Adventures in Wonderland” by Lewis Carroll), and love for nature and animals (“The Butterfly” by Patricia Polacco,

“Amber on the Mountain” by Tony Johnston). Therefore, despite the fact that children's literature is aimed at an inexperienced reader, eternal issues raised in creative way in children's novels are intellectually fulfilling for the youth. [1]

To sum up, fantasy novels for kids is a genre in which the writing talent of authors is fully revealed. They use a huge variety of linguistic and stylistic means that give a fresh breath of air to the typical plots allowing children to immerse themselves in an absorbing story in a deeper way. The thought-provoking novels can be the backbone of for their choice of further books for reading and change them because classical literature influence how children think, act or look at the world. Maybe colorful metaphors and similes will help them understand the author's idea even better and they will become lifelong readers, after living a story with their favorite characters.

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