TRACING THE DEVELOPMENT FROM CLASSICAL ROOTS TO CONTEMPORARY MASTERPIECES OF ENGLISH FANTASY

Ortiqov Rustamjon Abdumalik o'g'li

Fergana State University

rortiqov90@gmail.com

Shokirov Samandar No'monjon o'g'li

Fergana State University

sshokirov29@gmail.com

Annotation: This thesis delves into the rich history of English fantasy literature, examining its evolution from its classical origins to the flourishing landscape of contemporary masterpieces. By exploring key works and literary movements, the study aims to unravel the intricate threads that have shaped and defined the genre. The study navigates through the rich tapestry of classical, Renaissance, Gothic, Romantic, Victorian, and modern eras, unraveling the intricate threads that have woven the genre into the cultural fabric of English literary history. In synthesizing classical and contemporary perspectives, this thesis contributes to the scholarly discourse on English fantasy literature, providing a nuanced understanding of its evolution and cultural significance.

Key words: Fantasy, High Fantasy, J.R.R Tolkien, Contemporary Trends, Victorian Fantasy, Gothic Fantasy, Mythology.

Аннотация: Эта статья посвящена богатой истории английской литературы фэнтези и рассматривает ее эволюцию от классических истоков до процветания современных шедевров. Изучая ключевые произведения и литературные течения, исследование стремится распутать запутанные нити, которые сформировали и определили жанр. Исследование проходит через богатый гобелен классической, ренессансной, готической, романтической, викторианской и современной эпох, распутывая запутанные нити, которые вплели жанр в культурную ткань истории английской литературы. Синтезируя классическую и современную точки зрения, эта диссертация вносит вклад в

научный дискурс об английской литературе фэнтези, обеспечивая тонкое понимание ее эволюции и культурного значения.

Ключевые слова: Фэнтези, Высокое фэнтези, Дж. Р. Р. Толкиен, современные тенденции, викторианское фэнтези, готическое фэнтези, мифология.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola ingliz fantaziya adabiyotining boy tarixini o'rganadi va uning klassik kelib chiqishidan zamonaviy durdonalarning gullab-yashnashigacha bo'lgan evolyutsiyasini ko'rib chiqadi. Asosiy asarlar va adabiy harakatlarni o'rganib, tadqiqot janrni shakllantirgan va belgilagan chigal iplarni ochishga intiladi. Tadqiqot klassik, uyg'onish, gotika, romantik, Viktoriya va zamonaviy davrlarning boy asarlari haqida ma'lumot beradi va ingliz adabiyoti tarixining madaniy to'qima janrni ochib beradi. Klassik va zamonaviy istiqbollarni sintez qilish orqali ushbu maqola ingliz fantaziya adabiyoti bo'yicha ilmiy munozaraga hissa qo'shadi va uning evolyutsiyasi va madaniy ahamiyati haqida tushuncha beradi.

Kalit so'zlar: Fantaziya, Yuqori Fantaziya, J. R. R. Tolkien, zamonaviy tendentsiyalar, Viktoriya fantaziyasi, Gotika fantaziyasi, mifologiya.

Fantasy literature is a genre that involves imaginative and often supernatural elements, diverging from reality. Its characteristics include magical settings, mythical creatures, and the use of extraordinary powers or events. Themes often explore heroism, quests, and the battle between good and evil. World-building is crucial, and authors create intricate, fantastical realms. Symbolism and allegory are common, offering deeper layers of meaning. English fantasy works hold immense significance and cultural impact. They provide an escape into imaginative worlds, offering readers and viewers a break from reality. J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-earth, for instance, not only pioneered modern fantasy but also influenced subsequent literature, film, and even gaming.

"At its best, fantasy rewards the reader with a sense of wonder about what lies within the heart of the commonplace world. The greatest tales are told over and over, in

many ways, through centuries. Fantasy changes with the changing times, and yet it is still the oldest kind of tale in the world, for it began once upon a time, and we haven't heard the end of it yet." [1, 261]

These works often explore universal themes like good versus evil, friendship, and the hero's journey, resonating across cultures. They contribute to a shared cultural vocabulary, inspiring art, music, and language [2, 18]. Iconic characters such as Harry Potter and Frodo Baggins have become cultural symbols, influencing discussions on courage, morality, and resilience.

Moreover, fantasy works often serve as allegories, addressing real-world issues in a metaphorical context. This genre's enduring popularity has shaped entertainment trends, fostering a global fascination with the fantastical and the mythical.

English fantasy has a rich history dating back to medieval folklore and Arthurian legends. In the 19th century, writers like George MacDonald and William Morris contributed to the genre. J.R.R. Tolkien's works in the mid-20th century, such as "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings," played a pivotal role in shaping modern fantasy. C.S. Lewis's "The Chronicles of Narnia" also emerged during this period [3, 137]. The genre continued to evolve with authors like J.K. Rowling and George R.R. Martin in more recent times, solidifying English fantasy's enduring appeal.

The roots of English fantasy can be traced back to early mythologies and folklore, shaping the genre's rich tapestry. In Beowulf, the heroic epic reflects Anglo-Saxon values, intertwining mythology with the struggles of human heroes against supernatural forces. Arthurian legends, with tales of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, blend history and myth, offering a foundation for chivalric ideals and magical elements [4, 73]. These classical works serve as a wellspring for fantasy, inspiring later authors to create fantastical worlds and characters. The themes of heroism, magic, and epic quests endure, connecting contemporary fantasy to the enduring legacy of ancient myths and legends.

The Renaissance played a crucial role in shaping the fantasy genre, with works like Edmund Spenser's "The Faerie Queene" serving as influential contributors. Spenser's epic poem, written in the late 16th century, introduced readers to a fantastical realm filled with knights, magical creatures, and allegorical elements. Its imaginative storytelling and rich symbolism laid a foundation for later fantasy literature, inspiring writers to explore worlds beyond reality. The Renaissance emphasis on humanism and rediscovery of classical myths further fueled the creation of fantastical narratives, contributing to the birth of modern fantasy [5, 47].

The Gothic literature of the 18th and 19th centuries greatly influenced the development of fantastical elements by introducing themes of supernatural, mystery, and horror. Works like Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" and Bram Stoker's "Dracula" set the stage for imaginative and eerie storytelling. In the mid-18th century, 'gothic' also specifically referred to medieval architecture. One historical school of thought derived the pointed arch from the Druids, and at the same time viewed it as a symbol of medieval Germanic tribes, such as the Angles and Saxons. A 'gothic revival' was well underway in architecture by the middle of the 18th century, as builders integrated medieval elements into their work. Horace Walpole, an antiquarian and collector, built a home for himself on Strawberry Hill, a farm not far from London, which included 'gothic' decorations like stained glass windows and suits of armour.

J.R.R. Tolkien holds a monumental role in shaping modern fantasy literature. His masterpieces, "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings," introduced readers to intricate worlds, diverse cultures, and elaborate languages. Tolkien's meticulous world-building, including maps, histories, and mythology, set a new standard for immersive fantasy. No one denies that Fantasy literature owes its bones to The Lord of the Rings; it essentially swamped all previously written works of Fantasy, and it unquestionably created "Fantasy" as a marketing category. Indeed, all the author's I have listed site Tolkien as a defining influence, from GRRM to Jones, from Rowling to Paolini, from Mc Killip to Croggon. Knowing that Tolkien came first, you cannot read any other books without seeing his hand-print. Indeed, in the immediate years

following LOTR, its popularity created an enormous number of Tolkienesque works (using the themes found in The Lord of the Rings). Tolkien's influence extends beyond his writings, impacting the entire fantasy genre. His emphasis on detailed settings, complex characters, and epic narratives has inspired countless authors. Additionally, his creation of languages like Elvish showcased the depth to which fantasy worlds could be developed. Tolkien's legacy persists in contemporary fantasy literature and popular culture, as evidenced by the enduring popularity of his works and the profound impact on subsequent generations of writers.

In conclusion, the development of English fantasy has been a rich and transformative journey, with pivotal contributions from both the Gothic and Romantic periods, laying the foundation for the genre. J.R.R. Tolkien's unparalleled role in shaping modern fantasy elevated the genre to new heights, emphasizing intricate world-building and inspiring generations of writers. The fantastical elements woven into the fabric of English literature continue to captivate readers, illustrating the enduring power of imagination and storytelling in the realm of fantasy.

References:

1. John Aquino - Fantasy in Literature, 2007, Penguin, 261-262

2. J.R.R Tolkien - The lord of the rings, 1954, Bloomberg's, 17-19

3. Ortiqov , R. 2023. THE PROBLEMS AND THEIR IMAGERY IN THE NOVEL "FATHER GORIO" BY HONORE DE BALZAC. *Fergana state university conference*. (Dec. 2023), 125.

4. o'g'li, O.R.A. 2023. Theoretical Aspect of "Synecdoche "As a Stylistic Figure. *Best Journal of Innovation in Science, Research and Development*. 2, 4 (Apr. 2023), 249–254.

5. Ortiqov Rustamjon, & Mo'ydinov Shahboz. (2022). Websites as Support Tools for Learning the English Language in Fergana State University. *Czech Journal of Multidisciplinary Innovations*, *4*, 38–46. Retrieved from https://www.peerianjournal.com/index.php/czjmi/article/view/67

6. Ortiqov, Rustamjon. "STRUCTURAL AND SEMANTICAL FEATURES AND DIFFERENCES OF ORAL AND WRITTEN SPEECH." *INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING* 1.9 (2022): 438-442.