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## POETICAL PECULIARITIES OF SATIRICAL DEPICTION OF THE NOVEL "HARD TIMES" BY CH. DICKENS AND THE SHORT STORY "ZABOBON" BY LES MARTOVYCH (COMPARATIVE-TYPOLOGICAL ASPECT)

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**Abstract.** The article is devoted to the comparative-typological analysis of the satirical works "Hard times" by Ch. Dickens and "Zabobon" by Les Martovych. This investigation regards different means of satirical depiction such as contrast, hyperbole, characters' specific manner of speech.

**Keywords:** comparative-typological analysis, satire, contrast, hyperbole.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In the history of mankind fiction often becomes the means of propaganda of ideas and beliefs. The emergence of the satirical text, obviously, was the result of the dissemination of the ideas of humanism and the liberal principles of open discussion. Satire as the universal literary phenomenon in the global context is the kind of the comic reflection of reality. The Roman fables, pamphlets, caricatures written in a mockingly instructive tone were called by this word and later on the notion moved to the satirical and humorous novels and short stories that writers created in different countries at different times, from antiquity to the present. High level of skill was attained by Aristophanes, Petronius, J. Boccaccio, F. Rabelais, F-B. Moliere, John Swift, H. Heine, W. Thackeray, A. France, Mark Twain and others. Among Ukrainian masters of word who are known in the satirical style of writing we can name H. Skovoroda, I. Kotlyarevskiy, G. Kvitka-Osnovyanenko, L. Glibov, T. Shevchenko, Lesya Ukrainka, I. Franko, V. Vynnychenko, Ostap Vyshnya and others. In the history of the English and Ukrainian literature of the nineteenth century special place among the authors of satirical works take the names of Charles Dickens and Les Martovych.

Charles Dickens, the novelist who perceived reality through the prism of comic vision and reflected it in his works, combining humor and satire. However, cheerful, playful mood, optimistic outlook, belief in the possibility of improving the social life by means of morality dominated in the early period of his work, while in the literary heritage of the second half of his life the illusion of happiness fails, therefore, his satirical novels are largely imbued with pathos.

The figure of Charles Dickens as satirist attracted attention of the literary critics from different countries and many critical papers and articles were written by J. Priestley, English novelist and playwright, who was in charge of the Dickens Society for some time, he said that Ch. Dickens was "a person who knew that the Emperor was not dressed in new clothes" [15]. In the Western critical thought the literary work of J. Kincaid "Dickens and the rhetorical laughter" is well-known [13], in which the author examines the manner of the novelist to use laughter, to reveal and criticize the negative effects of human being and finding the ways to create a free, fair world.

Z. Libman, the Ukrainian literary critic, dedicated many pages in his literary works to the British writer, the author of the satirical works [6]. He emphasized the uniqueness of the manner of writing of the author, his ability to use witty and ridiculous tone, to expose the oppressive, antisocial, unfair reality of the time.

Satire is an important aspect of the literary heritage of Les Martovych, the Galician spokesman, the "peasant ambassador". His contemporaries I. Franko, V. Stefanyk wrote about him. I. Franko considered the writer to be the "watchful observer of life" with the "outstanding humorous talent" who "makes a person discover his or her behavior in a different light" [11, p. 143]. V. Stefanyk saw in his friend another M. Gogol, who was soon to write his "Dead Souls" [10, p. 82]. Literary works of the writer were the object of research of A. Hnidan, A. Zasenko, M. Zerov, V. Lesyn, S. Kryzhanivskiy, G. Marchuk and R. Chopyk.

## 2. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Charles Dickens gained worldwide fame immediately after the release of his first novel and since then he took his relevant place in the history of world literature and is considered to be "the greatest English novelist" (according to I. Evans, the author of "A Brief History of English Literature" (1976)). "Martovych was a true Dickens of the Ukrainian literature" as Magdalena Laslo-Kutsuk, the Romanian researcher, noted [5, p. 204], knowing him as a man who "just wished to learn and notice everything around and register all, as he was an extrovert" [5, p. 206]. Romanian literary critic, taking into account the work of "Psychological Types" by Carl Jung classifies the representatives of the world fiction by the type of extroverts and introverts, statics and dynamics. Both writers (Charles Dickens and Les Martovych) are ranked by her as "sensory-ethical and irrational static type of extrovert" [5, p. 201].

We fully agree with the conclusion of the above mentioned literary critic on the importance of the literary works of the Ukrainian writer for the development of the Ukrainian literature. "Bright, many-sided satire of Les Martovych is a valuable material for the characterization of politics, culture and the general atmosphere of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy" [8, p. 12]. It should be emphasized that the prose of the Galician satirist as well of the English novelist remain vivid document of its time, tells the true story of life. In the literary works of both writers a variety of types and characters of different social groups can be found, their creative images possess distinctive traits of individualized language, gestures, manner of speaking.

M. Laslo-Kutsuk emphasizes on the interaction of the Ukrainian writers with the world literature, including the English literature. This comparison of the creative works of Charles Dickens and Les Martovych demonstrates the common features of the literary phenomena which characterize both the English and Ukrainian writers and help us to better track individual and specific writing style of each of them.

As it is known, the discourse of criticism about foreign writers belongs to the outer literary relations and would like to mention that this also applies to the observations of M. Laslo-Kutsuk concerning of the psychological similarities of Charles Dickens and Les Martovych which are reflected in their literary heritage. It should be noted that "diachronic and synchronic relations are the strange intersection, competing and fighting, special synthesis" [1, p. 35], the whole process objectively conditioned by the laws of the historical and cultural development of peoples, the nature of creative thinking. So finding out the similarities of the satirical tendencies of the outlook of both writers and the ability of the

creative reflection of their experiences seems actual to us. We cannot talk about the direct effect of one writer on the other, but the similarity of their manner of writing, the tone of the narrative and some common features of the themes, which are known as typological analogies and differences. The latter gives us the basis for the typological comparative diachronic analysis of the novel "Hard Times" by Charles Dickens and the short story "Zabobon" by Les Martovych.

Les Martovych, the author of several collections of short stories, after a five year break, started his work on the short story "Zabobon" (1911), which became the best creative work of the writer and one of the best satirical works in the Ukrainian literature of the beginning of the twentieth century. In this highly original literary work the Ukrainian language is combined with the Galician dialect and the writer in his letter to the editor (early in March 1912) deliberately asked not to change that linguistic mixture in order to render the Galician soul in the best way.

"Hard Times" by Ch. Dickens which became the subject of our comparative typological analysis is the tenth novel of the English writer (1854), which raised the complex of the ethical problems of the characters that lived under the dominant ideology of Victorian England known as utilitarianism. In the literary work the process of industrialization which gained a rapid development was described, the author spoke about the system of education which needed reforms.

The size and number of pages of the works of both writers are almost identical, although they belong to the different genres. Ch. Dickens' "Hard Times" is a small novel among the other works of the writer (9 chapters). Les Martovych wrote the short story "Zabobon", which consists of 12 chapters. Certainly, the uniqueness of the English novel was a broad picture of reality of the Victorian era with a large number of characters, diversity, whereas in the Ukrainian short story the life story of one man in the interconnection with the fate of others was depicted.

It is prominent that the characters of both literary works "Hard Times" and "Zabobon" are the inhabitants of specific settlements: for the urban England it was the town, and for the agricultural Ukraine it became the village. In Charles Dickens' novel the events took place in Cocktown which became a static image and played an important role in the work. On the map you would not find that name of the town, but the writer recreated a typical industrial center of the Victorian era, devoid of any romance. The author described in detail the oppressive spirit that reigned there. Cocktown had a "savage face". "It was a city built of red bricks, and therefore it would be red – if not the smoke and soot" [2, p. 43]. The streets, alleys and even the people, who lived there, were similar. This atmosphere generated hatred, distrust and suspicion. By creating the image of a sad reality, the novelist protests against factory chimneys, numbers, greed for profit, the world devoid of joy, beauty and sincerity of feelings.

In his literary work Les Martovych didn't single out the image of the village as Charles Dickens did with Cocktown in his novel. In "Zabobon" the author talked about Voronychi "the worst village in the entire country" [7, p. 85]. The man who confessed that he was from the village was regarded as a thief. Here, as in the other villages, different strata were depicted: priests, Polish gentry, hard-working peasants, fraud.

Generally speaking the analyzed works do not belong to the genre of the educational novel, but the subject of satire in both literary works the Ukrainian short story "Zabobon" and the English novel "Hard Times" raises the problem of the influence of the family environment on the formation of a young person. Charles Dickens' novel "Hard Times" is opposed to the utilitarian education based on "dry facts", devoid of the vivid intelligence, imagination and creativity. Children are full of curiosity to the surrounding world, but to Gradgrind, a headmaster, they are the empty vessels to be filled with "facts." That gave rise to the formation of the ambitious careerists, in accordance with the principle "the aim should be reached by any means". These views also had a negative impact on the educator's own children.

It should be noted that the main character in the short story "Zabobon", the same as the Gradgrind's students from the novel "Hard Times", also became a victim of wrong education. Slavko was adored by his parents and they gave him a carefree life. Therefore the immature young son of priest Matchuk had no will qualities and wasn't focused. Going to school did not enrich his outlook; in his mind the

confusion was created which was called by the author "wonder view". He had the fear of his fate that inevitably gravitated over him. He did not realize how others could find any time to study if every day was full of the vital matters: first breakfast, lunch, dinner, supper, sleeping and rest between meals. G. Marchuk said that "in the image of Slavko Les Martovych depicted hundreds of intellectuals who, after graduating from high school, stuck in the mud of rural life, without wishing to do any work, even thinking – cut off from the cultural center, waiting for some rescue, some events or even miracles that should lead them to the continuation of their life journey" [8, p. 119]. We can conclude that both writers exposed inhumane teaching and upbringing giving education a meaningful role in the process of the progressive development.

Mr. Gradgrind from the novel "Hard Times" was a teacher and headmaster of one of the Cocketown's schools who was also the representative of the philosophy of "facts and figures". He was first depicted at work on the background of the classroom in an exemplary school. In order to achieve the satirical effect the author recounted all that had happened in the classroom, focusing on the negative pragmatic approach to learning. We see that the portrait of the educator, his appearance was a real caricature. According to N. Mikhalskaya, "using one detail that was repeated many times, Dickens created the images that could be well remembered" [9, p. 24]. It is significant that his index finger was "square", forehead was also "square" and these words help Charles Dickens to describe his face. Indeed, the English novelist focused on the geometrical appearance of the headmaster in order to emphasize his dry rationalism. According to the researcher, "extensive use of the grotesque was the artistic technique that was based on the excessive exaggeration of some certain side effects and the qualities of the characters" [9, p. 42]. According to I. Kyenko, the style of Charles Dickens "refers to the poetics of the Gothic novel and his satire acquires grotesque features" [4, p. 11].

Les Martovych paid special attention on the central character of the story "Zabobon" with the intentionally satirical intense palette. A young son of priest Slavko Matchuk clearly differs from the others. This weak-willed and thoughtless 28 year old young man was ruled by superstition, and accordingly to his view joy had to follow the sorrow and the failure and vice versa. Besides sleeping and eating, picking the ground in the garden was a popular and so-called decent guy's occupation. The writer often repeated the description of the episode focused on his hobby – chipping holes in the ground, ironically calling it "work" that the young man managed "correctly and quickly" [7, p. 33]. It is prominent that the author used hyperbole and exaggeration of the certain habits intentionally making the image more colorful.

Literary characters of Charles Dickens and Les Martovych are endowed with the individual traits, unique and peculiar speech. For example, the frequent usage in the dialogues of such words and phrases as "facts", "theory of education", "geometric shapes", "exact calculation", "small vessel", "benefit", "mechanical force" helps the reader to identify correctly whom they belong to. Gradgrind enjoyed a certain vocabulary that was unique and could belong only to him. He enumerated the students and called them only as "student number twenty". Each expression of the teacher convinced the children to be guided by calculation, and he asked them to forget forever the word "imagination" and "feeling". The purpose of an experienced teacher was to fill empty "vessel" of the crazy pets with scientific terms and definitions. M. Laslo-Kutsuk believes that Charles Dickens has a wonderful talent of drawing human characters, which is found in the fact that "his characters describe themselves, unwittingly revealing themselves by their insignificance manner of speaking" [5, p. 204].

It should be noted that Les Martovych as Ch. Dickens possessed the similar way of creating the images. According to the Romanian scientist' reasonable observation, "he depicted his characters, as if impartially, describing their facial expressions, gestures, language creating such language parties of his characters which would show in caricature way the limitations of the mind" [5, p.204]. The author of the short story "Zabobon" is not discussing the causes of limited abilities of clergyman Radovich, but enables the readers to make their own conclusions. The language of this character is very specific. For instance, beloved son of priest Matchuk' phrase "at the end" does not mean that the story is nearly to be completed. Another example is the welcome speech of the young clergyman Radovich at the meeting of his mother-in-law begins with him calling her an "unexpected guest", although he knew of her arrival.

In the commentary of the writer there is an explanation that all the guests of Radovich are "unexpected" for him. Another characteristic feature of the clergyman, a chatter-box, is the constant change of the topic of conversation that forces the listener to make the effort to remember the beginning of the story and its purpose.

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

We cannot insist on the direct effect of the English writer on the Ukrainian, besides the literary and epistolary heritage of Les Martovych doesn't contain the quotations about the English novelist. As the analysis showed, both satirists openly reveal the sharp political issues and problems of the society in their literary works; according to their professional and patriotic duty they debunk the environment of darkness, ugly life with the distinctive national features and historical conditions. Singling out one distinguishing trait of character, the representatives of the world of fiction hyperbolized it creating the grotesque effect, thereby highlighting true essence of their characters. The common feature of satire of both writers is giving an individual features to their characters which are unique, peculiar and can belong only to their speech. However, the general techniques are implemented by specific forms and are determined by the specific features of the national character, social and political structures of the country, its historical development, cultural traditions and mentality of the people and other factors.

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**Ключові слова:** компаративно-типологічний аналіз, сатира, контраст, гіперболізація.