

ABSTRACT

Doctoral thesis for the degree of PhD on the specialty 6D011800 - "Russian and Russian Literature" by Baizhigit Botagoz Sabitkyzy

Theme: Poetics of Absurdity in Postmodernism Literature and Methodology of its Study in Higher Education (on the material of modern Russian and Russian-language prose).

The aim of the dissertation research is to study the poetics of absurdity in the works of postmodernist writers, representatives of Kazakhstani (A. Zhaksylykov, I. Odegov, N. Verevochkin, A. Kim) and Russian modern prose (L. Petrushevskaya, V. Sorokin), as well as to develop methodological materials for the study of the poetics of absurdity in university practice.

Objectives of the thesis research:

- review and systematisation of theoretical and historical-literary sources on the problem of literary absurdity (differentiation of absurd and senseless, typological contiguity of absurdity, nonsense, alogism, artistic categories of tragic and comic, etc.);
- outlining the specificity of absurdist imagery in the literature of modernism and postmodernism (world context);
- outlining the most effective forms and methods of analysing the elements of the poetics of the absurd;
- designation of typological characteristics, literary universals and originality of absurdist imagery in modern postmodern Russian and Kazakhstani prose;
- outlining the genesis and functionality of absurd representation in the poetics of contemporary Russian and Kazakhstani fiction texts;
- analysing the elements of the poetics of the absurd in contemporary Kazakh and Russian postmodernist prose at different artistic levels (plot, motive, speech);
- development of methodological aspects of studying the poetics of the absurd in higher education.

Subject of the study: the poetics of absurdity in the literature of postmodernism, its artistic functionality and conditionality of ideological and thematic content; methodological aspects of analysing the elements of the poetics of absurdity in the artistic text in university practice.

Object of the study: modern Kazakh and Russian prose with elements of poetics of postmodernism and absurdity.

The methods of studying literary works become innovative literary techniques that work with the mechanisms of cognition and the unconscious, displaced in the author's text and distorting the author's rhetoric, performing the functions of response and psychological defense. These are, first of all, such methodological concepts as V. Rudnev's philosophy of text, cognitive research, and cognitive research. Rudnev, cognitive studies on the psychology of creativity by N.N. Nikolaenko, T.V. Chernigovskaya, R.Y. Rezhabek, V.P. Belyanin and others.

Structural and comparative analysis of the text, hermeneutic method were also used as the leading methods of research in the thesis.

Methodological basis of the research. Stroganova, A.A. Kobrinsky, O.L. Chernoritskaya, D.V. Tokareva, O.D. Burenina, M. Virolainen, M. Yampolsky, etc.).

The problem of absurdity is traditionally studied on the material of English literature in connection with the work of Lewis Carroll and pan-European traditions of absurdist literature development (N. Malcolm, J. Farrell, J. Flescher, E. Guiliano, G. Willis, L. Schweitzer, M. Heyman, E. Tagantino, S.A. Kharlamova, V.Y. Charskaya-Boyko). In the scientific field of the CIS countries, first of all, the concept of studying speech absurdity according to L. Shcherba's model is being promoted (L.V. Safronova, Z.R. Dokhova, R.H. Urusov, D.A. Samarin, E.L. Trakhinin, etc.). The works related to the psychoanalytical and cognitive methodology of the study of literary absurdity on the material of modern Russian literature (M.P. Marusenkov, L.V. Safronova, O.N. Zyryanova), as well as the works of foreign scientists of general theoretical character (N. Cornwell, W. Tigges) have also appeared.

Scientific novelty of the dissertation research. For the first time in Kazakhstani science, the results of this study will make it possible to define the category of the absurd on Kazakhstani literary material, comparing its poetics with world samples of absurdist prose, defining its semantics and functions.

This dissertation research can also open new, still insufficiently studied aspects and perspectives of analysing the poetics of postmodernist prose of Kazakhstani writers. The development of a methodological model for studying works of absurdist literature in higher education, proposed in this study, is also unique in a number of aspects.

The main provisions put forward for defence:

1. when studying the poetics of the absurd in the literature of postmodernism, the most effective is the use of a complex method of analysis, including psychoanalytical and cognitive literary studies, with the help of which it is possible to determine the genesis and functionality of the absurd text;

2. the analysis of the speech sphere of the characters is the most effective in interpreting the elements of the poetics of the absurd, as it is the speech that is one of the main indicators (markers) in the "disintegration of being" in their inner world, a reflection of collective and individual psychological traumas;

3. in the works of absurdist orientation, studied in this dissertation research, the following literary techniques were revealed: excessive use of foreign-language words; author's (invented) newspeak, which can be used to write the whole text of the work or dialogues of individual characters; the use of a large number of neologisms, capital letters, mathematical problems, various kinds of sound and lexical repetitions, extra spaces, etc. in the speech of characters, which makes the work partially devoid of logic for the reader, makes it difficult for the reader to understand it.

4. the use of elements of the poetics of the absurd in a fiction text is a consequence of:

- depicting psychological disorders (deviations) in characters, or certain historical, social or personal upheavals that affected their inner state, which, in turn, gives rise to absurd actions or crazy speech (V. Sorokin, L. Petrushevskaya, A. Kim, I. Odegov, N. Verevochkin, A. Zhaksylykov, I. Lipkovich, S. Lipovetsky, I. Mandel);

- psychological violence to which the characters (and possibly the author and the reader of the work) are subjected (V. Sorokin, A. Kim, I. Odegov);

- a kind of protest against generally accepted norms (in the function of euphemisms), as the absurd codification democratizes the "character word" and reader's reception and frees the author from the consequences of incorrect (dangerous) interpretation of his words (V. Sorokin, A. Kim, L. Petrushevskaya, I. Lipkovich, S. Lipovetsky, I. Mandel);

5. along with the global literary trend in Kazakhstani postmodernist literature, the techniques of absurd poetics occupy an important place in the structure of the artistic whole, reflecting its universal characteristics, so the inclusion of an elective course on this topic in the Programme of training teachers of Russian language and literature of Kazakhstan methodological aspects of the study of absurd poetics in the world and Kazakhstani context seems necessary and relevant.

Approbation of the results of the study:

According to the results of the dissertation research 6 articles were published. Of them 2 articles indexed in Scopus database and 2 articles published in the journals recommended by Committee for Quality Assurance in the Field of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan. On the subject of the thesis research was won the project within the grant financing of researches of young scientists under the project "Zhas galym".

Content of the thesis research.

Absurdity is an important element of the poetics of a fiction text, which allows writers to create fiction, express detachment from reality and evoke various emotional and intellectual reactions in the reader. The study of absurdity in literature allows us to better understand the essence of human existence, the contradictions and illogicality of the world, as well as to play with expectations and perceptions of reality. The absurd breaks the usual logical and structural norms in order to provoke in the reader a reassessment of the usual perceptions of the world.

Absurdity is a philosophical approach that reflects the inconsistency and meaninglessness of human existence, the lack of clear answers to fundamental questions about the meaning of life and the nature of reality. It shows the gap between aspirations, expectations and reality, questioning the logical and metaphysical constructs of the world. Literature of the absurd always reflects the spirit of the times, showing the madness and chaos of the world that writers encounter. It is usually an expression of protest and a challenge to traditional literary forms and norms, opening the way for experimentation and new forms of expression. The literature of the absurd has had a significant impact on literature

and art in general, and its historical and literary aspect continues to attract the attention of researchers and readers around the world.

A meaningless statement is axiologically neutral, has no support in reality, it is neither true nor false. An absurd statement makes some sense, but because of its oxymoronic nature, this speech act is not correlated with the truth, it is illogical. In literary texts, such an artistic technique is used to actualize the reader's reception.

Sorokin's characters in the novel "Blue Lard" often use: words or even whole sentences, completely consisting of capital letters; capital letters are used in the speech of V. Sorokin's characters to convey strong emotional excitement, as well as to emphasize the significance of what is happening (relationships, place, action) or some absurd expressions and concepts; characters in their abstruse speech use several languages, namely: Chinese, English, French, Russian, which makes the comprehension of the work by the reader quite difficult.

L. Petrushevskaya in the cycle of fairy tales "Pusky Byaty" applies the model of the experimental language of Academician Shcherba. Her characters speak in an invented language, which complicates the reader's perception, requiring deciphering the meaning of the text. The writer uses in the fairy tale roots that do not exist in the Russian language, but with the help of standard Russian suffixes, affixes and the correct arrangement of sentence members one can intuitively understand the meaning of the text.

A. Kim also in the story "Centaur's Village" in the dialogues of half-people creates a non-existent (author's) language, which later in the novel "Joys of Paradise" will be used as a means of communication of characters-"visionaries". In the novel "Joys of Paradise" A. Kim uses the following techniques of speech absurdity: the use of strange, absurd metaphors in the speech of characters, such as "furry butterflies of oncological hopes", "the feeling of venereal incest", "a million quantum torpedoes", etc.; abbreviations understandable only within the framework of this novel; individual-author neologisms; homogeneous enumerations and synonyms; lexical repetitions slowing down the text, gaps.

Among the absurdist techniques used by A. Zhaksylykov's novel "The House of the meerkat" includes: the prevalence of homogeneous enumerations in the text, reaching absurd proportions; a large number of author's neologisms, abbreviations, collocations, metaphors, oxymoron and absurd expressions; the novel's chronotope is permeated with the techniques of absurdist prose: These are quantum jumps in time and space, erasure of the boundary between reality and dream; the character series is also subject to the techniques of the absurd, they include: transformations of the hero-narrator, cloning of animals, people, plants and mushrooms, absurd images of the "Little House", human-suricat many others and etc.

The analysis of the poetics of absurdity in N. Verevchkin's story "Gogol's Skull", considered in the psychoanalytical aspect, allowed us to trace the mechanism of complexes displacement into the text, which is accompanied by absurdist motifs indicating psychological deviations of the heroes of the work. In addition to absurdist motifs in the story "Gogol's Skull", a number of artistic elements indicating psychological accentuations of the heroes were identified:

absurd space, absurd and deviant behaviour of the heroes, absurd situations and so on. The protagonist, driven by unconscious urges, invests them in his actions, accompanied by obsessive compulsions and paranoid delusions.

In I. Odegov's creative evolution, the image of the central character moves from narcissism to its next stage - megalomania. Compensatorily expanding his personality/body to the image of the all-pervading God (a metonymic construction of his cold mother, with whom the hero seeks to identify), Narcissus with megalomaniac symptomatology realises his super-significance by healing his narcissistic wounds - unlovedness and unappreciation, thus trying to return to a certain psychological norm.

Written in the genre of a dreambook, the work "Morpheus and Orpheus. I. Lipkovich, S. Lipovetsky, and I. Mandel, former Kazakhstani and now American emigrants, help the authors survive the psychological trauma of emigration/initiation, a largely unconscious process of painful status transition, causing internal chaos and anxiety of the characters, preceded by rooting in a new culture and withdrawal.

The methodological system of teaching the poetics of absurdity in higher education in the framework of the elective course "Poetics of absurdity in the literature of postmodernism" under the educational programme 6B01706 - "Training of teachers of Russian language and literature" on the basis of M.Kh. Dulaty Taraz Regional University has proved its effectiveness and found quite successful application in the university educational process.