

FOUNDATIONS OF 19TH-CENTURY FRENCH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

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Abstract:

This article analyzes the formation and development features of French children's literature of the 19th century. The article covers the following main areas: The socio-historical foundations of French children's literature are considered, including the influence of the ideas of the Enlightenment, the process of industrialization and the development of mass education. The genre features of French children's literature are revealed: the transition from didactic stories to fantastic and adventure works, the typology of new heroes, and the literary traditions that formed during this period are studied.

Keywords: 19th century French literature, children's literature, didactic literature, fantasy literature, Charles Perrault, Jules Verne, Hector Malo, fairy tales, adventure literature, Enlightenment ideas, national identity, education, moral values, social criticism, children's worldview, evolution of literary genres, folklore traditions.

Introduction

The 19th century was an important turning point in the history of French children's literature. During this period, children's literature not only took shape as an independent direction, but also acquired its own unique appearance. In this century, when France entered a new industrial era, a series of social changes and revolutions took place, children's literature was enriched with new meaning and content. Under the influence of the ideas of the Enlightenment, the issues of raising children and

providing them with knowledge rose to the center of public attention. It was during this period that works intended for children began to be considered not only as a means of instruction, but also as a source of inspiration for beauty, creativity, and intellectual development.

Through the work of such great writers as Charles Perrault, Jules Verne, and Hector Malo, French children's literature experienced its golden age. In their works, topics that were previously rarely found in children's literature - scientific discoveries, technical progress, and issues of social justice - found expression. The most important feature of the literature of this period is that it broke down the literary barriers between adults and children - many works became favorite books of representatives of both generations. In this study, we will dwell in detail on the formation of French children's literature of the 19th century, its stages of development, its distinctive features and its contribution to the development of world children's literature.

METHODS AND ANALYSIS

The stages of development, trends of change and periodic features of French children's literature of the 19th century were analyzed. As a result of a comparative study with the literature of previous centuries, distinctive aspects of children's literature of the new era were identified. By studying the lives and creative activities of writers such as Charles Perrault, Jules Verne, Hector Malo, the reasons for the formation of ideological and artistic features in their works, the influence of personal experience and worldview on literary creativity were analyzed. The original texts and their changes in various editions were studied, including the characteristics of versions specially adapted for children. The system of images, symbolic meanings, recurring plot elements and specific features of compositional structures in children's literature were studied.

DISCUSSION

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, a number of important historical and social factors influenced the development of children's literature in France. The Great French Revolution (1789-1799) that took place in France during this period had a great impact on all aspects of society, including literature. During the Republic

established as a result of the revolution and later during the Napoleonic Empire, serious changes took place in French society. [1]

First of all, the development of the mass education system in France during this period created conditions for the flourishing of children's literature. The Law "On Education" adopted in 1793 made primary education compulsory for all children. This, in turn, led to an increase in the level of literacy and an increase in the demand for children's books.

Secondly, during this period, the formation and widespread spread of the Romantic movement, which united all previous genres and trends, also led to the enrichment of children's literature. Leading representatives of the Romantic movement, including Victor Hugo, Alexandre Dumas, George Sand, and others, created images of children in their works and paid special attention to them.

Thirdly, the development of the printing industry in France during this period, the improvement of the processes of publishing and distributing books, had a great impact on the development of children's literature. As a result of the reduction in the price of books, they became affordable for the general public. Intensified competition in the book market led to an increase in the quality of children's books. Fourthly, at the beginning of the 19th century in France, changes in the institution of the family and the attitude towards children also affected children's literature. If earlier children were treated as small adults, now they began to be perceived as individuals with a separate worldview and needs. Fifthly, during this period, achievements in the field of science, in particular, innovations in the fields of natural sciences, geography, history, and ethnography, enriched the content of children's literature. For example, Jules Verne's science fiction works were based on the advances in science and technology of this period. [2]

RESULTS

Although the ideas of the Enlightenment were formed during the 18th century, their influence on children's literature was clearly manifested precisely in the 19th century. The views on human nature and ideas about education of French enlighteners such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Voltaire, and Diderot formed the ideological and philosophical basis of 19th-century children's literature. The concept of education, outlined in Jean-Jacques Rousseau's "Emile, or On Education" (1762), had a great influence on the development of 19th-century

children's literature. Rousseau put forward the idea of educating children in a natural environment, taking into account their age characteristics. This idea later gave rise to the formation of the principle of taking into account children's interests, age characteristics, and worldview in children's literature. The ideas of glorifying reason and science, put forward during the Enlightenment, became one of the important features of 19th-century children's literature. For example, in the works of Jules Verne, ideas such as the promotion of scientific achievements, the pursuit of knowledge, and the glorification of reason occupy a central place. [3]

Another important idea of the Enlightenment - the idea of humanism - became one of the leading principles of French children's literature of the 19th century. The works of writers such as Victor Hugo, Hector Malo, and George Sand raised issues such as human dignity, children's rights, and social justice. Another idea put forward during the Enlightenment - the idea of cosmopolitanism - was also reflected in children's literature of the 19th century. Jules Verne's works such as "Captain Grant's Children" and "Around the World" provide information about different peoples, their culture, and customs, which in turn serves to instill in children a sense of respect and tolerance for other peoples. The ideas of closeness to nature and respect for nature, which were promoted during the Enlightenment, were also widespread in 19th-century children's literature. For example, Alphonse Daudet's "Letters from the Mill" contains beautiful depictions of Provencal nature. [4]

CONCLUSION

French children's literature of the 19th century occupies a special place in the history of world children's literature. The formation of the literature of this period was greatly influenced by the ideas of the Enlightenment, important events in the history of France, as well as socio-economic and cultural changes. In short, French children's literature of the 19th century is distinguished by its genre diversity, ideological and artistic richness, and the diversity of the system of images. The literature of this period occupies a special place not only in the history of French, but also in the history of world children's literature.



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