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THE DEPICTION OF PAST VERSUS FUTURE IN THE NOVEL BY J.K.OATES "HAZARDS OF TIME TRAVEL"

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Annotation. The purpose of this article is to analyze the main motives, images, features of the author's strategy in relation to artistic time, as well as to trace literary parallels, consider the concept and artistic features of Oates's novel in comparison with the works of American writers (K. Vonnegut, K. Kesey), who developed the genre of the novel - dystopia in the twentieth century.

Key words: dystopian novel, poetics, satire, chronotope, individuality.

J.K.OATESNING "HAZARDS OF TIME TRAVEL" ROMANIDA O'TMISH VA KELAJAK TASVIRI

M.T.Elmanova, katta o'qituvchi Buxoro davlat universiteti

Annotasiya. Ushbu maqolaning maqsadi muallif strategiyasining asosiy motivlari, obrazlari, xususiyatlarini badiiy vaqt bilan bog'liq holda tahlil qilish, shuningdek, adabiy parallelliklarni kuzatish, Oates romanining konsepsiyasi va XX asrda roman janri - distopiyani badiiy xususiyatlarini rivojlantirgan amerikalik yozuvchilar(K. Vonnegut, K. Kesey) ning asarlari bilan taqqoslashdan iborat. Kalit so'zlar: distopik roman, poetika, satira, xronotop, individuallik.

ПРОТИВОПОСТАВЛЕНИЕ ПРОШЛОГО И БУДУЩЕГО В РОМАНЕ Дж.К.ОУТСА "HAZARDS OF TIME TRAVEL"

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Аннотация: Целью данной статьи является анализ основных мотивов, образов, особенности авторской стратегии в отношении художественного времени, а также проследить литературные параллели, рассмотреть концепцию и художественные особенности романа Оутс в сопоставление произведениями американских писателей (К. Воннегут, К. Кизи), развивавших жанр романа-антиутопии в XX в.

Ключевые слова: роман-антиутопия, поэтика, сатира, хронотоп, индивидкальность.

Introduction

One of Oates's latest novels is Hazards of Time Travel. This is Oates' first dystopian novel and was published in 2018. The book is set in a world in the very near future - 2024, when democracy as we know it will cease to exist and will be replaced by a fictitious democracy functioning as a totalitarian regime. In this world, the United States, Mexico and Canada united to create the North American States (NAS) and a new calendar year was adopted, which finds its starting point on the day of the September 11 attacks. Citizens in NAS live under strict surveillance and control, freedom of speech does not exist and having subversive thoughts is almost as dangerous as expressing them. The Hazards of Time Travel is a thought-provoking novel that explores themes of totalitarianism, social control, and individual freedom through the eyes of a teenage girl named Adrian. The novel takes place in a dystopian future, where conformity is valued above all else, and any deviation from the norm is severely punished.

Joyce Carol Oates uses a poetic style to convey the emotional depth and complexity of the characters in The Perils of Time Travel. The narrative is written in the first person, allowing readers to experience Adriana's thoughts and emotions first-hand. Oates also uses vivid imagery and metaphors to create a sense of "foreboding" and "suspense" throughout the novel. The socio-psychological aspects of the dangers of time travel are central to her poetics. The novel explores how social conditioning can influence individual behavior and identity. This raises important questions about power dynamics and how they affect human relationships. Using the example of Adriana, the author shows how difficult it can be to maintain self-esteem when faced with insurmountable pressure from society.

Literature review

The Hazards of Time Travel follows 17-year-old heroine Adrian, who, in her farewell speech, decides to ask twelve questions to which she never learned the answers during her lessons. Since this is seen as a betrayal and questioning of authority, Adriana is arrested. The government decides that she is guilty of high treason and declares Adriana an exile, which in scientific terminology sounds like this: EI - Exiled Individual. This results in her being transported back in time to 1959 to Area 9 in Wisconsin. Here she must go to university under a new name, Mary Ellen Enright, and is left with only a list of rules to follow and a microchip embedded in her brain that manipulates her memory. The last warning she has is that if she decides to rebel again, she will be killed.

The ambitious Adriana is arrested right at the prom, goes through interrogations, during one of which she observes the execution of her peer, and learns that the denunciation incriminating her of "high treason" was written by her brother Roderick. The court's decision is quite loyal: the girl is sentenced not to "disappearance," but to four years of exile." From a reality saturated with cybernetic devices, Adriana finds herself in a period when laptops, mobile phones and copiers had not yet been invented. Typewriters are commonplace here, one of which she learns to use while working part-time at the museum. An exile can study as a first-class students at Wainscotia State University, but is under the watchful eye of the National Security Disciplinary Commission for the Supervision of Exiles (DNSCNI). A chip is installed in the girl's head that prevents memories of the past, causing painful spasms when immersed in the past. She cannot remember the faces of her parents, the names of her friends, although she makes efforts, overcoming the pain, trying to preserve her memory, her past, and with it her own individuality. Much of the narrative is Adriana's internal monologue, told in the first person: "Sometimes on my knees in a posture of prayer I am able to break through the censor barrier".

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the 'censor barrier". In a 2020 interview, Oates says that she began working on the novel in 2011, emphasizing the relevance of a personal approach as a sign of healthy society, noticing that it does not observe it in modern American reality

Vonnegut's story "Harrison Bergeron" about a missing teenager is an excellent illustration of what could have happened at Adriana's house in the reality of the 21st century after her expulsion, how might the parents behave, whose faces she tries to remember, about whom she yearns. A tear on the mother's cheek is the only manifestation of sadness for her son. Something probably went wrong; not all memories were erased. According to the instructions Oates presents at the beginning of the novel, the memories of the exile disappear with him: "If you are Deleted, all memories of you are Deleted also") [1,6]. Vonnegut's short story becomes a clear example of this point of instructions from Oates's novel. But, in our opinion, Oates's novel is more focused on the inner world, on the processes destructive to the heroine's consciousness, on the protest against a person's loss of individuality. In addition, the main chronotope within which most of the history of Adriana develops is the past 1959–1960. The chronotope of 2039, almost coinciding in time with the artistic reality of 2038 in Vonnegut's story, is shown fragmentarily in Adriana's story.

The government's response to the Great Terrorism Act demonstrates a totalitarian regime: "It is hard to believe that the regions now known as (Reformed) Mexico and (Reformed) Canada were once independent states independent of the States!" - exclaims Adriana7. Numerous abbreviations are becoming characteristic signs of the America of the future: SInd - exiled individual, EI – exile elite, BOK – Bureau of Educational Control. Codification of social groups by skin color, codification by trustworthiness, constant pressure that adults and children experience are common phenomena in the future from which Adriana was expelled. Students at her school try not to stand out, "to be like everyone else," deliberately showing "average knowledge," adults are forced to live according to the laws of the social group to which they are assigned. Thus, Adriana's father, being a good doctor, was "forever stuck" in the position of S-2, a second-rank orderly, due to his brother's unreliability. However, he decides to protest a certain way: he tells his daughter about Uncle Toby, who "disappeared," keeps his brother's things, and talks with Adriana about free will. The future in Oates's novel, in its mechanicalness and cruelty towards human individuality, resembles the artistic reality of Kesey's novel One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest, 1962. The order in America in 2039 is similar to that established by the head nurse with her lips stretched out in a "plastic" smile in the mental hospital8. In reality of the 21st century. Kesey's novel is still studied in American schools, appreciating "the roar of protest against the rules by which a society of mediocrity lives, and against those invisible guardians who enforce these rules" [3,9].

Results and analysis

The epigraph to Oates' novel, drawing a parallel between "man and mechanism," is an example of the author's irony, bordering on sarcasm. The epigraph is a quote from the work of the popular psychologist B.F. Skinner, whose works Adriana studies: ""I" is only a tool for displaying a functional unified system of reactions". The original version of the epigraph expresses the concept of personality (self); in the Russian version of the novel, published in 2020, the emphasis on human individuality is somewhat leveled, since the concept of "I" is quite ambiguous and somewhat faceless. The choice of psychology, a science that studies human individuality, is not accidental. Populists and demagogues from science are no less dangerous

than demagogues from politics. They are capable of turning science and society into a soap bubble, even if shining with all the colors of the rainbow, but empty.

Naive Adriana, proud of her role as speaker, writes a speech consisting of questions addressed to the school administration. Even before the speech is given, Adriana is taken into custody for calling for treason and undermining the authority of the authorities. The absurdity of the events described is based on the grotesque: there was no conscription, but they were convicted for it. No one read the speech, but an undermining of the authority of the authorities was revealed.

The grotesque as a combination of the real and the unreal in a single image system, combined with irony, are key techniques in the palettes of K. Vonnegut, and K. Kesey. Writers are united by a critical attitude towards the reality depicted. Oates continues and develops this same tradition, creating a novel that warns about the dangers of depersonalization and violence against personal freedom. The famous American critic J. Fisher, in a review of the novel "The Hazards of Time Travel" for The New York Times, emphasized the same feature of the author's conceptual sphere, noting that Joyce Oates "wrote a thriller in which America is depicted under the threat of death." ("has written a thriller in which the murder victim is America.") [2,13]. In the above quote, the term "thriller" defines not the genre, but the dynamics and tension of the narrative development.

Being in exile, the frightened girl constantly thinks that she is being watched, keeps to herself on the student campus, and, according to her friends, looks eccentric. Her consciousness, her personality are crippled, but not by the war. She is studying psychology, having lost her family, her past, even her name. From now on her name is Mary Ellen . The girl calls her past life a "soap bubble"[3,14]. Emptiness and internal breakdown are inherent in both Billy and Adriana. By chance they both turn out to be happy in their personal lives. Billy is married and has a daughter. Adriana, having survived her love for teacher Ira Wolfman, as well as Ira himself, meets sculptor Jamie Stiles and is quite happy on his farm, in a house full of guests. But at the very end, the girl remarks: "The doctors say my injuries will never heal. Neurological disorders cannot be treated."[3,15].

Sincerity, trusting relationships, love and friendship, according to the author's concept, come from the past. Microchips, numerous gadgets, manipulations with consciousness, science and art are relevant for modern America. In order to objectively evaluate and understand the present, sometimes it is simply necessary to compare it with the past. Joyce Carol Oates made a comparison in favor of the past, in which people felt free and relationships between people were more trusting. The contrast of time chronotopes in the literary system of the novel is a narrative strategy – a trigger that ensures the dynamics of action development. In addition, the time chronotope of the present for Adriana corresponds to the future for the reader. Thus, Oates makes a three-dimensional structural formula of the novel, in which the past and present of the heroine, shading each other, change places, allowing the reader to reassess his own past and present, looking into the future in order to separate true values from momentary ones.

Throughout the novel, Adriana questions whether the threat is real and fears that other people will become spies who will betray her. She lives in constant fear until Ira Wolfman convinces her to run away with her. But, again, this momentary feeling of freedom ends in violence through the Inner Drone Strike. Oates describes how, when Ira and Adriana inevitably return to campus, "a small bird, perhaps a bat, circled strangely as if in a frenzy" and swooped down "to rush at the Wolf Man, hit him on the head and entered into him" his head suddenly burst into flames, engulfing him in flames, in a matter of seconds turning a man into vapor just a few feet from me": "In pine branches overhead a small bird, possibly a bat, was circling strangely, as if rabid. Then, as I stared, the thing—black, swift, unerring—swooped down to rush at Wolfman, struck him on the side of the head and entered his head, suddenly aflame, engulfing him in flames, within seconds turning the man to vapor only a few feet from me."[3,56] Adriana is also wounded, but does not evaporate. She ends up in the hospital, loses all her memories and learns from the doctors that her name is Mary Ellen Enright, a role she ends up living in blissful obedience.

Conclusion. To summarize our discussion, we want to show how and in what ways Oates critically reflects on issues of surveillance, manipulation and totalitarian control, taking into account the earthiness of this work. By presenting the reader with a totalitarian regime in a near-future society, Oates speaks to a modern audience living in the era of new power after 9/11, and through Adriana's story shows them the dangers of allowing power to go unchecked. Having allowed Adriana to live in blissful ignorance in 1959, Oates also notes the lack of active political opposition in his contemporary American figures novel The Perils of Time Travel as a warning not to allow the US to slide into a sham democracy reminiscent of the NAS democracy. This view of the novel is supported by the fact that Oates's fiction has always been devoted to a serious study of "American character and American society." For Oates, the NAS society in the novel is an extension of the modern United States, and by reflecting critically on it, she makes visible and warns against certain problematic features of the sociopolitical landscape. The Perils of Time Travel is a powerful social-psychological novel that uses poetic language to explore complex themes related to freedom, conformity, and social control. Oates's masterful writing style creates a spellbinding atmosphere that lingers long after the last page has been turned.

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