



**IQTIDORLI TALABALAR,  
MAGISTRANTLAR, TAYANCH  
DOKTORANTLAR VA DOKTORANTLARNING  
“TAFAKKUR VA TALQIN”**

**MAVZUSIDAGI  
RESPUBLIKA MIQYOSIDAGI  
ILMIY-AMALIY ANJUMAN**

**TO'PLAMI**



**Buxoro - 2023**

## THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN CHILDREN'S

### LITERATURE

*M.R.Kilicheva,*

*Doctor of philosophy in philological sciences (PhD)*

*D.Amonova,*

*Master student of English literature department*

**Annotation:** Although the prehistorical annals in American children's literature are brief and simple, it contains a world of masterpieces in later centuries and has even surpassed the literature of many other countries. It underwent slow transformation until the 17th and 18th centuries, following which there was a fundamental increase in children's literature in America. Throughout history, book genres and types have evolved.

**Key words:** children's literature, genres, spoken stories, songs, hornbooks, moral aims, battledore, ABC books, counting books, picture books, Civil War.

Early children's literature consisted of spoken stories, songs and poems which were taken advantage to educate, instruct, and entertain children. They were not written down, rather passed on through generations by word-of-mouth. They include nursery rhymes, lullabies, folk songs, fables.

After printing became widespread, some tales were created for children to educate and for religious purposes. A large quantity of literature, often with a moral or religious message was aimed at children. They were didactic in terms of nature. It means they were designed to teach children lessons like how to read, to be literated person and moral values to be a good boy or girl. They include hornbooks, chapbooks, stories, folk.

Hornbooks were example of cozy and easy books to carry. They were firstly invented and produced in England at around 1450s. They also gained massive popularity in America and used up to 19th century to teach children. Having been made of a wide variety materials like wood, bones, they had little handles to ease for children to hold and a piece of paper mounted at the front. On the paper there would be an alphabet in upper and lower cases, vowel sounds, once in a while Lord's Prayer, from time to time you could find other prayers.

Another example of the children's books in America is battledore, later descendent of hornbooks. It was a folded piece of paper like hornbook included the alphabet, letter combinations, sometimes numbers and woodcut illustrations focused on moral purposes, like friendship, kindness.

Next one is Mary's grammar. It was the best example which could combine literacy and moral lessons. It is stories of Marry, seven-year-old girl, who tries to learn grammar lessons. Her mother tell stories, legends about her grammar lessons. Some books were brought from England to the American colonies in the mid-seventeenth century. The first such book was a catechism for children, written in verse by the Puritan John Cotton, that was also used in America and used for long time. Known as Spiritual Milk for Boston Babes, it was published in 1646, appearing both in England and Boston, America.

In 17th century in new United States republican adults took extra steps for children's literature and consider raising child to be virtuous. Token for Children can be huge example of those actions. It consisted of children's personal conversation and displayed how they became a state. In a long run it got function as a main source of American education. After Civil War ideas about children and their literature, education, literacy were dramatically altered considering them as innocent creature of nature. This change peaked in the advent of the kindergarten in America which was best attention paid to kids, and their education. Republican climate in America started to grow. There one tendency appeared like showing and promoting virtue and features of kindness in the example of leaders such as George Washington. It was the cherry tree myth about Washington's youth by minister Mason Locke in his Life of George Washington.

In the U.S. during the Victorian era in England, another strain of children's writing also became popular. These were writings that introduced children as main characters, but involved them in the real life drama of the world around them. Novels such as Alcott's Little Women and Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables display this particular brand of realism. And another underlying cause of growth of American children's literature is the introduction of new award in writing for children. By this way authorities urged

writers and publishers to produce more books. It had double results. Not only did it provide growth of literature of children, but also development of library system. As time passes, theme of children literature in America changed. Main focus shifted from morality to entertainment themes like imagination, self-improvement and others.

There are big name authors who contributed significantly to the progress of children literature in America. They created their masterpieces in different time periods. Mark Twain or Louisa May Alcott were equally successful in popularizing fiction for children in 19th century. After a century later, Dr.Seuss, Harper Lee, F.Scott Fitzgerald came to stage.

In conclusion, American children's literature has long history, although at the beginning it was influenced by European models, it flourished for the next centuries with different genres and categories.

#### **REFERENCES:**

1. A.Ahrorqulova, A. Rahmonqulova, Jahon bolalar adabiyoti namoyondalari, Farg'ona – 2012
2. E.Wayne Carp, A History of American Childhood, Pacific Lutheran University – January, 2007
3. Michael O.Tunnel, James S.Jacobs, The History and Origins of American Children's literature, International Reading Association - 2013 October
4. <http://courses.lumenlearning.com>
5. <http://infoplease.com>
6. <http://britannica.com/art/childrentimes>
7. <http://academia.edu/childrens/literature>