

Азеева Валентина Сергеевна

магистрант

Таврическая академия

ФГАОУ ВО «Крымский федеральный университет

им. В.И. Вернадского»

г. Симферополь, Республика Крым

THE GENRE MATRIX OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER

«MISERY» BY S. KING

Аннотация: в статье проведено практическое исследование проблемы жанра и жанровой матрицы в современной литературной теории. В исследовании предпринимаются попытки поиска и анализа жанровых компонентов психологического триллера. Для иллюстративного примера был использован роман С. Кинга «Мизери». Выявленные компоненты могут быть применены ко всем романам, относящимся к жанру психологического триллера.

Ключевые слова: жанр, жанровая матрица, компоненты матрицы, психологический триллер, антагонист, главный герой.

Abstract: the article reveals the practical study of the problem of genre and genre matrix in contemporary literary theory. The study attempts to find and analyze the genre components of the psychological thriller. For an illustrative example the novel «Misery» by S. King was used. The identified components can be applied to all novels written in the genre of psychological thriller.

Keywords: genre, the genre matrix, the components of the matrix, psychological thriller, antagonist, protagonist.

The genre matrix is a model that has certain characteristics and is understood as a pattern which is reproduced other objects. The genre matrix of the novel consists of important some elements that should be presented in each novel. These elements represent different genres and they are integral parts of certain genre. At this article we review integral parts of psychological thriller. As we know, thriller is the story which

emphasizes the unstable mental states of the character or characters. The most important elements of the psychological thriller are protagonist and antagonist, certain type of narration, specific place setting, conflict, motive of event, frightening and chilling atmosphere. For this research we choose novel «Misery» by famous American writer Stephen King.

Protagonist. The protagonist of the novel is Paul Sheldon, a successful writer, the author of a cycle about Misery. He is smart, brainy, attentive, his intuition is well developed. But his physical state is extremely weak because after the accident his legs are broken and he can't move. His social status is high. He writes a lot of books, he earns money for his books, so he is wealthy and prosperous man.

The spiritual growth of the protagonist is observed. At the beginning Paul doesn't know how to fight for his life. He thought that it would be better to die in the road accident. «*Please, God, please – let me out of this or kill me... let me out of this or kill me*» [3, с. 102]. Being bedrid, subconsciously Paul began to do reevaluation of values, feeling threat for the life, he began to appreciate it. The despair and suffering wanted to overcome the will of the hero, but he did not give up. «*Yet, miserable or not (and he was), he still wanted to live...*» [3, с. 318].

Sometimes Paul Sheldon could foresee his enemy's thoughts and Annie Wilks's following words and actions. Sometimes heedlessly having said some expressions and saw the Annie's anger after that Paul had already known what would be his punishment. The mental condition of the writer is low, he wants to fall asleep and not to wake up.

The writer seeks some ways to receive the freedom and makes several unsuccessful attempts to escape. But he will be punished subsequently for it. It is not so easy to deceive cunning and artful Annie. Protagonist's morale is so oppressed. Yesterday Paul Sheldon was quite healthy, famous, wealthy writer and now he is crippled being in power of a mad fan. But self-confidence and desire to live take over the pessimism and hopelessness.

Antagonist. The antagonist of the novel is Annie Wilks. She is the fan of the writer. She is also clever, cruel and physically strong woman. S. King describes her as a devious woman who hides her malice behind a merry face. After the car accident

which has happened to Paul, Annie has decided that she had a right to bring the writer to her house and take care of him without his wish.

Annie Wilks is mentally sick. Being a nurse in hospital, she killed newborn children, without any regret, she also killed her ex-husband. Moreover, Wilkes brutally murders a Colorado state trooper who sees Sheldon in her house. And now she has made the decision to control the destiny of the writer. She belongs to middle class. She lost her job, her house is not old, but well organized and clean.

In this novel the number of secondary characters is limited. So there are protagonist and antagonist who are the main characters.

Narration. The author realizes the narration through the characters. The main character is also a writer. So the author discloses a consciousness of the creative person for whom the freedom is necessary to write the works. The author also tries to understand an entity of the customer who is able only to behold and destroy. The writer skillfully researches how the mass audience can influence on the creative process, moreover emphasizing the great importance of independence in the world of art imaginations. Bringing up such real problems to the writers, the author describes events quite realistic and true-to-life.

Place setting. The place is isolate. The main events in the novel take place in a poor, miserable room in the house in the little town of Sidewinder, Colorado. The location is rural. The house is abandoned, near there are neither neighbors nor passers-by, seldom cars could pass. The actions in the novel last only several months, so the time action is rather short. The majority of the story takes place inside the house, in Paul's bedroom.

Conflict. The conflict of the novel develops at two levels such as vital and concrete and philosophical. Concerning the first conflict, it is a confrontation between Paul Sheldon and Annie Wilks's collision, so the conflict of the criminal and victim which is predetermined by social antagonisms. Paul is a creative nature and Annie is ruthless tyrant. The author shows that the heartless robot has the power over destiny of creative personality.

The protagonist battles his own mind: he attempts to determine what is real, who is he, and what life's purpose is. The internal conflict intertwines with the external one. The protagonist should overcome not only his own fears and *terrors*, but also he should physically overcome the opponent to survive and get the freedom which is so necessary for the creative person. So the external conflict is a physical confrontation with the insane woman.

The motive of event. The motive of event is fight for justice and morality, fight against impunity of the criminal. It is also the presence of moral ambiguity, complex and tortured relationship between injured man, Paul, and obsessive, pathological character, as we can observe Annie. She is completely obsessed with Misery Chastain, a fictional character. Annie's obsession eventually translates to Paul, Misery's creator. As the story goes on, it is clear that Annie suffers from extreme psychosis, catatonia and violent rage.

Annie also had a criminal past. Being a nurse in hospital, she killed newborn children, without any regret, she also killed her ex-husband. Moreover, Wilkes brutally murders a Colorado state trooper. So the protagonist must revenge. «*Punishment might be deferred... but never escaped*» [3, с. 187]. And Paul took revenge, he killed Annie.

Atmosphere. This novel creates intensity of emotion, fear, apprehension, exhilaration, anxiety. All these components are presented in it. There is the presence of menace. Annie threatened Paul to kill him, if he did not obey her. She puts writer to a series of physical and psychological tortures. Paul Sheldon is innocent in this story. He only suffers from actions of mentally sick person. There are a lot of horrifying scenes.

Список литературы

1. Норец М. «Клеточная» модель жанроформирования в современной теории литературы // Современные научные исследования и инновации. – М.: ООО «Международный научно-инновационный центр», 2014. – №11.
2. Тамарченко Н.Д. Теория литературных родов и жанров. Эпика. Текст. – Тверь, 2001. – 73 с.
3. Stephen King «Misery». New English Library, 1988. – 370 p.