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HOWARD PHILLIPS LOVECRAFT: LANGUAGE ANALYSIS

Abstract: this article analyses language of American writer Howard Phillips Lovecraft, defines the level of complexity of the language, analyses the vocabulary.

Keywords: language, analysis, literature, writer, history, Lovecraft, English.

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ГОВАРД ФИЛЛИПС ЛАВКРАФТ: АНАЛИЗ ЯЗЫКА

Аннотация: данная статья исследует язык американского писателя Говарда Филлипса Лавкрафта, определяет уровень комплексности языка, исследует словарный запас автора.

Ключевые слова: язык, анализ, литература, писатель, история, Лавкрафт, английский.

Introduction.

Howard Phillips Lovecraft (1890–1937) was an American writer of horror fiction. In the present time, his work is known as Cthulhu Mythos. He was born in Providence, Rhode Island, and spent most of his life in New England. During his life, he had a lot of family tragedies and did not become a popular author. He was mostly published in pulp magazines and died in poverty at the age of 46. However, after death, he had become one of the most significant writers of the 20thcentury. His writings became widely famous and created a new subgenre known as Lovecraftian horror.

What is Lovecraftian horror?

Lovecraftian horror is one of the biggest subgenres of the classic horror genre, created by Howard Phillips Lovecraft. It is based on Lovecraft's ideas about mankind. He was concerned that humankind is not a paragon of the animals. Lovecraft thought that mankind was an unimportant part of the uncaring cosmos that could be swept away at any moment. His work is based on the fragility of anthropocentrism. And this foundation brings another topic – fear of the unknown. "The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear, and the oldest and strongest kind of fear is fear of the unknown" – H.P. Lovecraft. Lovecraft believed that imagination was able to create much scarier things than the author could describe. The setting of Lovecraftian horror is the USA at the beginning of the 20th century. The author used the real world as the basis of his fantasy world. It meant that real historic events were mentioned in his stories. World War I, first cars, popularization of electricity – all of these make the atmosphere of Lovecraftian horror even more attractive. The historic period was described with amazing precision/accuracy and became a part of the subgenre. This subgenre is still relevant and authors of the present time create their stories in this genre but they won't be mentioned in this article. So, Lovecraftian horror is one of the most popular subgenres of horror with its own atmosphere, setting, and ideas.

The general plot and the universe.

All Lovecraftian stories are built like detective stories. The majority of the story begins with a strange event or a sequence of events in one of the places created by Howard Phillips Lovecraft. The most famous place is a city named Arkham. All of the places (cities, villages, geographical objects) are situated in one universe and often they are mentioned together in one story. In all Lovecraftian Myths, the unknown evil is the main horror element and the foundation of the story. Howard Phillips Lovecraft created the pantheon of the ancient gods, who existed before humankind, exist at the same time as humankind, and will exist after the end of humankind. Mankind for them is just a grain of sand in the desert and that is the most frightening idea in Lovecraftian horror. Those gods have names and although they are difficult to describe, a lot of artists throughout the world have drawn their illustrations for Lovecraft's stories using poor

descriptions given by the author, and most of the time illustrations looked pretty similar. It meant that Howard Phillips Lovecraft was right about the imagination of people. The most popular gods of Lovecraftian Myths are Cthulhu, Yog-Sothoth, and Shab-Niggurat. The novels are always drowned in a mysterious atmosphere and overloaded with accurate descriptions of the environment and characters' feelings. Endings in these stories are rarely happy. Often the main character dies, goes crazy, or gives up understanding that his and mankind's powers are unequal with the powers of the unknown ancient evil. However, sometimes the ending is happy (like in the story, called Dunwich Horror). Happy endings in Lovecraft's novels are often connected with the number of scientists, who are able to fight evil. Talking about endings, I should mention two types of stories that are common in Lovecraft's bibliography. The first type is a short story, which ends fast and gives the reader atmosphere and a bit of a plot. And the second type is a long story, which gives the reader difficult descriptions, deep lore, Lovecraftian atmosphere, and amazing story twists. All in all, Lovecraft's novels are unique in their plot, atmosphere, and universe.

Features and style of language.

For analysis, I have chosen to use "Call of Cthulhu" and "Dagon". Starting to read Lovecraft's stories, the first thing every reader will notice that they are overloaded with difficult descriptions. "When at last I awaked, it was to discover myself half sucked into a slimy expanse of hellish black mire which extended about me in monotonous undulations as far as I could see, and in which my boat lay grounded some distance away." – H.P. Lovecraft, "Dagon". This fragment shows that Lovecraft admired a lot of rare adjectives in front of nearly every noun. When he describes the environment, he chooses the words to thrill and to scare the reader. But not only environment description looks unique and thrilling. Character's thoughts and feelings are also extraordinarily described. "Dazed and frightened, yet not without a certain thrill of the scientist's or archaeologist's delight, I examined my surroundings more closely." – H.P. Lovecraft, "Dagon". When Lovecraft defines a character's feelings he is not only using extraordinary adjectives but also outlines them using comparisons. Those massive descriptions can be a disadvantage because they are overloaded with a massive

number of difficult and rare adjectives, but admirers of Lovecraft's work all over the world suppose that it is one of the biggest benefits and that it creates an atmosphere of Lovecraftian horror. And I cannot disagree with it. Talking about the plot and its development I should say that Howard Phillips Lovecraft also has a unique style of telling the story. "As my grand-uncle's heir and executor, for he died a childless widower, I was expected to go over his papers with some thoroughness; and for that purpose moved his entire set of files and boxes to my quarters in Boston. Much of the material which I correlated will be later published by the American Archaeological Society, but there was one box which I found exceedingly puzzling, and which I felt much averse from shewing to other eyes. It had been locked, and I did not find the key till it occurred to me to examine the personal ring which the professor carried always in his pocket. Then indeed I succeeded in opening it, but when I did so seemed only to be confronted by a greater and more closely locked barrier. For what could be the meaning of the queer clay bas-relief and the disjointed jottings, ramblings, and cuttings which I found? Had my uncle, in his latter years, become credulous of the most superficial impostures? I resolved to search out the eccentric sculptor responsible for this apparent disturbance of an old man's peace of mind." – H.P. Lovecraft, "Call of Cthulhu". Looking at this part the reader will be confused and will read it all over and over again, but it is not a disadvantage. H.P. Lovecraft did it on purpose. The writer needed a reader to concentrate on the story and atmosphere. That is why Lovecraft using complex sentences to tell a story. The author gives details sentence by sentence, word by word and the story is being built like a puzzle, which the reader needs to solve. It is beneficial for the story, atmosphere and that is the reason for Lovecraft's iconic status. All in all, Lovecraft's writing style is unique, complicated, and admiring. His descriptions are thrilling and his vocabulary is enormous. That is why this writer is iconic.

Conclusion.

Howard Phillips Lovecraft's language is unique, complicated and beautiful. His works are suitable for experts in English language and require further analysis. His vocabulary is one of the most various among all modern writers.