

VARIATIONS ANALYSIS OF TRANSFORMATION MOTIF IN THE WORLD LITERATURE

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Abstract

Transformation motif is one of the most common traditional motifs in the oral and written world literature. However, serious scientific research on this topic has been rare. This article describes the formation of the transformation motif in world literature and reveals the available forms of this motif based on the analysis of data from various literary sources. Analysis of existing variations of the motif reveals interesting correlations, that form basis for further deeper research by scholars studying the role of motifs in plotline formation. The article examines the use of transformation motif and its specifics in works of world-famous writers.

Key words: motif, transformation, literature, folklore, fantasy, oral and written literature, myth, metamorphosis, evolution, classification.

Аннотация

Evrilish motivi jahon og'zaki va yozma adabiyotida keng tarqalgan an'anaviy motivlardan biridir. Biroq, bu mavzu bo'yicha ilmiy tadqiqotlar kamdan-kam uchraydi. Ushbu maqolada jahon adabiyotida evrilish motivining shakllanishi yoritilgan va turli adabiy manbalardan olingan ma'lumotlar tahlili asosida ushbu motivning mavjud shakllari ochib berilgan. Motivning mavjud variatsiyalarini tahlil qilish qiziqarli korrelyatsiyalarni ochib beradi, ular syujetning shakllanishida motivlarning rolini o'rganuvchi olimlarning keyingi chuqur izlanishlari uchun asos bo'lishi mumkin. Maqolada jahonga mashhur yozuvchilar asarlarida evrilish motividan foydalanish va uning o'ziga xos xususiyatlari ko'rib chiqilgan.

Калит so'zlar: мотив, evrilish, adabiyot, folklor, fantastika, og'zaki va yozma adabiyot, afsonalar, metamorfoza, evolyutsiya, tasnif.

Аннотация

Мотив превращения – один из самых распространенных традиционных мотивов в устной и письменной мировой литературе. Однако серьезные научные исследования по этой теме проводились редко. В данной статье описывается формирование мотива

превращения в мировой литературе и раскрываются имеющиеся формы этого мотива на основе анализа данных различных литературных источников. Анализ существующих вариаций мотива выявляет интересные соотношения, которые могут составить основу для дальнейших более глубоких исследований ученых, изучающих роль мотивов в формировании сюжета. В статье рассматривается использование мотива превращения и его специфика в произведениях всемирно известных авторов.

Ключевые слова: мотив, превращение, литература, фольклор, фантастика, устная и письменная литература, миф, метаморфоза, эволюция, классификация.

The transformation motif, reflecting the metamorphosis of humans, or other representatives of the natural world, from one form to another in oral and written world literature, is one of the literary and aesthetic phenomena that primarily originated in folklore and then migrated to written literature. In this regard, establishing the reasons for the transition of traditional transformation motif into written literature, its socio-psychological foundations, as well as the ways of artistic transformation depending on the time periods, is of particular importance for determining the historical and poetic stages in evolution of artistic and aesthetic thinking of humanity and substantiating the interrelation of the development of folklore and written literature.

At all times in the world literature there has been a high interest in the use of the transformation motif in the poetic interpretation of human destiny, serious changes in life, social shifts, turning points, psychological experiences. Establishing the role of the transformation motif in maintaining the artistry of the work, its functions in describing human emotions, general characteristics, genesis, internal appearance, artistic evolution, allows to confirm that vestiges of mythological thinking continue to exist in modern literature in the form of poetic innovations. Evolutionary transformations that occurred in the nature of the motif, the process of diffusion, poetic dynamics serve to understand the principles inherent in the development of mankind's artistic thinking.

In particular, Russian folklorist Propp's *The Historical Roots of Magic Tale* monograph, based on African mythological sources, defines that the reincarnation of the fairytale hero into an animal and reverse transformation into a human is based on mythical imaginations about the transition of people into the other world [5]. M.Bakhtin, reflecting on the

forms of time and chronotope in works in the novel genre, dwells on the heroes who have gone through the process of metamorphosis, on the role of transformation in their reincarnation and self-understanding [2, p. 77-99]. E.M. Meletinsky, exploring the artistry of myths, seeks to reveal the essence of mythical and psychological transformations in Kafka's works [4, p.407-408]. The foregoing indicates that in the world of literary criticism there is a lack of monographic studies giving a holistic view of the role, genesis, and artistic functionality of this subject.

The use of transformation motif in folk tales, legends, epics and fantasy works in Uzbek folklore and literary criticism has been studied in articles, monographs and dissertations of such scholars as G. Jalolov, F. Gozalev, T. Rakhmonov, S. Jumaeva, J. Yusupov, M. Sodikova, M. Murodov, Kh. Shaikhov and D. Kuvvatova .

It is well known that in ancient times people perceived death as a form of transition from one state to another, as a means of transition of a person from one world to another, and the kingdom of the dead as a world opposite to the one in which we live; where a person acquires a new form [5, p. 129]. As a result, in folklore genres of myths and legends a special epic motif emerged - the transformation motif, which embodied the mythological concept of transformation of a person into an animal, plant, object, as well as transformation of a certain creature or plant into a human being. Later, as a result of the development of poetic thinking and historical and evolutionary progress of artistic and aesthetic experiences, the genre of transformation motif, just as other ancient epic motifs in the plots of myths, legends, tales and epics, was used for artistic description and explanation of social and psychological factors of human transformation into another form with the help of cultural and ethical outlooks. It even turned into motif's primary and priority artistic task. Today, the transformation motif is often used in written literature to artistically reveal the "spiritual transformations" of human experience.

1. The transformation motif in folklore. In folklore, the transformation motif is not used in all genres of oral art. This is hindered by the fact that it is based on fiction, fantasy, belief in magic, mythology, the supernatural. For this reason, this motif is used only in genres of epic type, the plot of which contains fiction, such as myths, legends, fairy tales with elements of fantasy, or romantic poems.

2. The transformation motif in written literature has been used from ancient times to the present day. However, unlike folklore, the

transformation motif in the written artwork is found in the construction of the plot of poetic, prose, dramatic works, and plays an important role in the ideological and compositional connection of events.

Similarly to folklore, in some ancient literature works the metamorphosis of the protagonist is described in the form of a divine phenomenon. The only difference from folklore is that, the transformation occurs by the will, and because of the influence of the gods. In later works, the transformation of human is presented as a direct result of achievements in science and technology. For this reason, a similar interpretation of the transformation motif can be found more often in fairy tale and science fiction works. In particular, sci-fi novels, novellas and short stories contain interesting stories in which the protagonist changes his appearance, disappears, appears or becomes invisible with the help of some of his own invention, medicine, or found magical item (means).

The fact that the transformation motif has been used in oral and written art from ancient times to the present allows to divide it into two types based on the period of application. Namely: 1. The motif of traditional transformation. It is a poetic expression of the transformation of the main character of the work into an animal, plant, natural phenomenon, celestial body, object, etc., according to the plot of ancient mythological legends. 2. The motif of modern transformation. Describes how the main character changes his appearance, character, or becomes invisible due to some discovered element (a mysterious elixir, a medicine, an achievement in surgery).

The study of the participation and place of the transformation motive in the plot of the work in terms of significance in determining the genre nature, ideological and compositional direction of the work allows to define the active or inactive participation of the motif. That, in turn, points to the importance of studying the transformation motif in fiction literature in two directions:

- a) active functionality transformation motif
- b) inactive functionality transformation motif.

The transformation motif is one of the leading motifs of everyday life and adventure novels. In them, the hero, experiencing the process of "metamorphosis", strives for the truth through the adventurous and everyday life events, with the spiritual transformation and self-knowledge being observed. This is one of the main features of adventure and everyday life novels [2, p. 30].

Transformation often occurs because of human curiosity. A striking example of such a phenomenon is the transformation of the main character of the Golden Ass, Lucius, into a donkey, because of levity and "inappropriate curiosity" [2, p. 30]. Although Lucius's curiosity has expanded some of his opportunities (for example, as a donkey the protagonist is able to observe peoples' informal life hidden from public, learn their most intimate secrets, in particular intimate relationships), he still has to endure humiliation and suffer. Interestingly, the image of Lucius from The Golden Ass was used in European novels from the time of Apuleius until the 19th century. The moral uplift was achieved not through self-knowledge, but through penetration into the secrets of people, through the transition beyond the forbidden veil, into the unacceptable.

Our observations show that the motif of transformation used in fiction is formed in different variations, depending on functions. Specifically, 1. Transformation is advantageous-convenient for someone. For example, Lucius, the protagonist of Apuleius' Golden Ass, found it beneficial to change his appearance in order to secretly observe the private lives of others. 2. For other characters, it is an inconvenience. 3. And sometimes, an absolute disaster. As, for example, for Gregor Samsa, the protagonist of Kafka's The Metamorphosis. 4. A mean of slander. An example is Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, depicting transformation into a creature with a donkey's head, and humiliation. 5. A way of exposing, revealing secrets. For example, Hoshimdjon, the main character in the Uzbek writer H.Tukhtaboev's The Death of the Yellow Giant, after becoming invisible with the help of a magic hat he found, "exposes" the fortune-teller, and that can be considered as one of the variations of the transformation motif.

In the chronotope of the post-medieval novel, the role of the active "unmasker" is played by the insane, cunning and mocking, while in The Death of the Yellow Giant this role is played by the schoolboy. This once again makes it clear that the transformation motif can be interpreted in conjunction with both the image of the child and the adult.

The struggle against social and everyday life vices is demonstrated using the "revealing" function of the transformation motif. In particular, in H. Tukhtaboyev's The Death of the Yellow Giant the transformation motif is used in parallel with other motifs in a parody mockery of social flaws, as well as deception and fraud of some individuals.

The transformation motif is particularly widely used to reveal the true face of negative characters in psychologically oriented works.

On the example of the world's written literature it has been noted that the transformation motif is used in the following artistic forms according to its historical-folklore, socio-psychological, artistic-aesthetic grounds: 1. The transformation of a person from an anthropomorphic into a zoomorphic image or into a natural phenomenon, a celestial body, as it happens in folklore. 2. The transformation of age, that is, from old to young, and vice versa. 3. Change of one's social status, condition, appearance by means of magical objects, such as a magic wand, a magic hat, a magic apple, a mysterious skin, a magic strand of hair, etc. 4. The resurrection of the dead, that is, the transformation of the dead into the living. 5. The evolution of the appearance and spiritual image of a person for the purposes of punishment, revenge, damnation, curiosity, exposure and the desire for personal enrichment with the help of their intellectual, scientific discoveries. 6. The transformation of a healthy person into a madman, due to the inability to endure life's blows. 7. The evolution of space and time.

Also, in world literature from ancient times to the present days, the transformation motif arises under the influence of three different forces, according to which the following types of motif can be distinguished: 1. The will and influence of the gods on the transformation. 2. The influence of demonological forces (devils, demons, genies and evil spirits) on the transformation. 3. The exposure of ordinary people or scientists to the transformation.

In written works, the transformation motif is often used to describe the transformation of the main character from human being to an animal or vice versa. The motif of human's transformation into an animal can also be found in works created after Apuleius' Golden Ass. In world literature, there are also works built on the basis of the motive of the transformation of an animal into a human. For example, Mister Bello and the Magic Elixir by Paul Maar, known in German literature for his fantastic stories. Another example is Bulgakov's Heart of a Dog. It includes a motif with a scientific basis for the transformation of a dog into a man.

The interpretation of spiritual (psychological) transformation plays an important role in modern literature as well. In general, there are three types of interpretation of transformation in written literature: a)

transformation associated with self-knowledge; b) the search for true knowledge; c) transformation associated with the search for truth.

It should be noted that the transformation often manifests itself in the form of cunning, madness and ridicule. In fact, these characters are quite healthy, but, by the above manifestations, they seek and reveal the truth. The effect of their transformation has two directions [7. p.33].

In conclusion, it can be noted that a special role in oral and written world literature is assigned to the similarity of the transformation motive, its traditionality, genesis in terms of artistic forms and tasks, with ancient mythological representations of the peoples of the world, such as animism, totemism, magic, fetishism, beliefs in the underworld, the realm of the dead, into gods or deities. There are historical-folklore, socio-psychological and artistic-aesthetic bases for the use of the transformation motif in the world fiction, while in the written literature the motif is directly influenced by folklore traditions. Which is often determined by the predominance of magical essence in it.

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