Vishnevetskaya V.V.
Stylistic devices and the novel “The Child Wife” by Thomas Main Reid

Novorossiysk Polytechnic Institute of KubGTU Branch

doi 10.18411/gq-30-03-2019-11
idsp sciencerussia-30-03-2019-11

Abstract

The article analyzes the biography of one of the prominent English writers Thomas Main Reid, who is known for his novels: “Headless Horseman”, “Osceola, the Leader of the Seminoles”, “Free Arrows”. As well as the little-known novel “Child-Wife”, it became an autobiographical story. On the basis of this novel, the use of stylistic devices to describe the characters can be traced. The most used of them are metaphor, metonymy and comparison.

Keywords: stylistic devices, metaphor, metonymy, comparison, creating images of characters, lexical, syntactic, lexico-syntactic.

“Two men, the American and the English, were sitting in their good friend’s house in Philadelphia in the 1843 autumn, talking lively. The American, surprised by rich imagination of the English, later talked about him: “He fibs with an astonishing scale, but with the talent of an authentic artist, that’s why I’m listening to him with great attention.” The English, who was talked about was the beginner author by name Thomas Main Reid, but his interlocutor – the American was Edgar Allan Poe”.

And indeed, looking at the written by Thomas Main Reid, one cannot help admitting, that his gift of imagination he used very successfully filling them with a lack of knowledge or writing experience. It can hardly be called his novels by the accurate reproduction of the south-western USA manners. Yet together with the author, we are immersed in the atmosphere of Mexican borderlands legends, forever remembering is not a melodramatic plot or one-sidedness of the characters, sometimes any right part or the character lends credence to almost fantastic adventures in the reliability of which it would otherwise be hardly to believe. And most importantly, the reader has not only the effect of complicity, but also an irresistible desire to experience life, survive all these amazing adventures, travel, fight and generally be in front.

More than twenty seven novels, twenty six books, poems and stories for young people were written by Thomas Main Reid. In the best of them he connects travels with adventures and characters of his compositions wherever they could travel, they are characters of high, pure aspirations, although they are not too deep by nature. However, this accusation is not entirely fair because the adventure genre solves the problem of psychology in its own way.

Much in the author's works and they are strong and weak sides of the work arose from the contradictions of the life and personality of Thomas Main Reid.

We know very little about the initial time of his life. He was born in a poor Irish family on the 4th of April 1818. In 1840 he moved to America in search of adventure and rushed to the undeveloped expanses of the west hunting and trading with Indians. For a short time he was a teacher and a reporter. As a reporter of the newspaper the “Spirit of time” Thomas Main Reid took part in the Mexican War 1846-1848, not really thinking about the nature of the invasive war on the part of America. He was seriously wounded in the leg in a battle near Chapultepec, which bothered him all his life.

In 1848 in the rank of captain, he resigned and immediately hurried to go to Europe to take part in the revolutionary movement in Bavaria, then in Hungary. He arrived there late and settled in London. Having failed in the commercial and journalistic field, Thomas Main Reid decided to study literature.

His first novel "Free shooters" published in 1850, described the events of Mexican War. Over the next decade his best novels were published such as "The Hunters for scalps", "The Quadroonica", "The Ocoila, the leader of the Seminoles", "The Headless horseman" and others. These novels were accompanied by rapid success.

At the age of 31 Thomas Main Reid decided to marry, but his marriage looked no less romantic than adventures of his characters. A fifteen-year-old girl became his wife she was from an English aristocratic family.

No wonder, but his own biography was reflected in the novel "The Child Wife", where the author told the reader about his incredible love to the young girl who stole his heart and peace. Although this novel was fully devoted to the revolutionary movement in Europe.

The most interesting fact that this novel was never translated from English into Russian. The novel is a grandiose multi-faceted narrative, in which there is everything inherent in Mein Reed, plus a little more: besides the adventure, swirling plot, love affair (and even what!) - the abundance of characters, and not idealized, as often happens in this writer, but quite real, humor, pathetic and heroic romance, and, finally, there is a place for politics. Reading fascinates and captures, not to mention the translation.

On the novel there are two themes connected melodramatic love story with the adventures of the main characters and a happy ending and a historical tragedy connected with the revolutionary struggle.

One chapter begins..... *"On parting from the pier most of the passengers forsook the upper deck, and went scattering to their state-rooms.*

A few remained lingering above, among them the gentleman to whom belonged the golden-haired girl, and the servant with skin of kindred colour.

He did not stay, as one who takes a leaving look at his native land. It was evidently not his. In his own features, and those of the child held in his hand, there was an unmistakable expression of "Englishism," as seen in its nobler type....."

The author continued..... *"Looking at Blanche (fictitious character name of his wife), one could not wonder at Sir George being so particular. She was a thing to be shielded. Not that she appeared of delicate health or in any way fragile. On the contrary, her form showed strength and rotundity unusual for a girl of thirteen. She was but little over it."*

The writer's talent, his sympathies are most clearly shown in novels devoted to Indians, but this novel, two stories are connected: a melodramatic love story with the adventures of main characters with a happy ending and historical tragedy associated with the revolutionary events in Europe at that time.

But to the credit of the narrator, the historical background in the novel on the details used, according to the author's estimates, is correct and enough truthful.

Talking about the brutal events of the time, the author does not draw Indians by barbarians and villains. On the contrary, he admires their patriotism, their resilience. Moreover, the novel traces the inhumanity of racism, the dream of true friendship between Whites and Indians, and means the unity, spiritual kinship of all people and, therefore, the need for racial and social equality.

The hero of his book, Main Reed, presented one of the most amazing and caring people, and now we know for sure that this is his own prototype, a person who played a significant role in the historical development of events in Europe, Mexico and America. He is surprised with his integrity, patriotism and nobleness of actions.

In this character, the mass of the unique and mysterious, perhaps more tragic than the author himself. And since this fate is the material from which the writer composes his image, it is worthwhile to dwell upon it.

A young man, born in England, who got a decent military education, took part in armed clashes in France, Mexico, and fought against injustice in America. He did not feel fear, played with fate, it seemed to him that it was his duty, or maybe he was looking for himself as a person or as a personality. The character in the novel tries to lead a high life,

attends balls, helps his comrades, practically lives a normal life, travels a lot, meets new people, it distracts him from washing his destinations on this earth.

In his novel, Main Reed uses various stylistic devices to help him vividly and emotionally describe the characters, the plot and the exciting adventure in which the characters of the novel are involved and in which the reader is immersed.

Exploring the texts of T.M. Reed, it turned out that the author's language is based on common and neutral language units. They combine all styles into a single language system, and serve as a background on which stylistically marked means stand out. They also give the context a certain functional and stylistic shade. However, in the context of the nature of stylistic colouring can change. Thus, functionally fixed language units in the context can acquire emotionally expressive coloring. Depending on the meaning and characteristics of usage, the same language unit represented by the author may have several different stylistic connotations. The significant words used by the author in one sense are often stylistically neutral, while in the other they have a bright emotional and expressive colouring.

Making a comparison, it turned out that stylistic means are not only linguistic units that have constant stylistic connotation, i.e. the ability to express a stylistic colouring out of context, but also elements of the language that acquire it in specific acts of speech activity, in certain syntagmatic connections

We see that almost every language unit is able to act as a stylistic tool, which is achieved by the nature of the organization and the methods of using it in a particular utterance. This greatly expands the stylistic resources of the expressive language of the author.

On the example of the material under study, it was revealed that in the process of creating images of characters, different-level stylistic devices are used: lexical, syntactic, lexico-syntactic.

The most common stylistic devices in creating an image are metaphor, comparison and epithet.

Such syntactic stylistic devices as inversion, repetition, parallel constructions and litotes are used mainly to emphasize certain features of appearance.

One of the most important means of creating a visual image of the character is a metaphor. Metaphor is the most important feature of a literary text and the fundamental figure of speech according to K.K. Jules.

"And a complexion equally suggestive of Italian origin — a tinge of olive in the skin, slightly damasked upon the cheeks, with, above all, a thick chevelure, black as the plumage of a buzzard" (T. Mayne Reid II, p.4)

"Her eyes like stars clipped from the blue canopy of the sky — such was she who followed, or rather accompanied, the youth in the calico hunting-shirt" (T. Mayne Reid II, p.4)

In this passage, the author focuses on the skin colour of an Indian, comparing it with olives; in the second example, the amazing beauty of the eyes of the heroine compares with the stars in the blue sky.

In the formation of the visual image of the character, other stylistic devices are used, especially with regard to metonymy and comparison, which are ranked as linguistic means of achieving figurativeness along with metaphor.

"Nymphs! Naiads! Mermaids! Which of the three?-" (T. Mayne Reid II, p.7). The author calls the beautiful girls such a way.

Analyzing other stylistic devices, it is traditionally considered that such stylistic devices as hyperbole, litot, irony, which are not based on the representation of one object through another, that is, not in combination with metaphor, metonymy or comparison, are not able to create a figurative picture.

"Richard Tarleton stood straight as a lance, and had been handsome as Apollo." (T. Mayne Reid VI, p.18)

"A gleam of hope flashed over his face. It could be scaled!" (T. Mayne Reid IV, p.16)

Oxymoron, like other stylistic devices, is used to describe the appearance of the character: *"Deuced nice place! Devilish pretty girls!"* (T. Mayne Reid VIII, p.31). But it should be noted that this stylistic device is quite rare in the works of art that we study. When describing his characters, Thomas Mine Reed sometimes resorts to hyperbole:

"The Girdwood party entered with considerable éclat — the mother dressed like a grand-duchess, though without her diamonds". (T. Mayne Reid VIII, p.38).

"When Mr. Swinton called, she met a man who was more clever than Maynard in a hundred ways....." (T. Mayne Reid VIII, p.38)

When describing clothes, Thomas Mine Reed often refers to the stylistic reception of personification: *«My dear», said the lace collar she secured from Partridge's, "I fit you beautifully; don't give me up". "Ah, such little feet", said the leather of the soft new shoes; "how effectively I cover them. What a pity should ever want my aid"*. (T. Mayne Reid IX, p.57)

Metonymy is used to describe the professional skills of the characters:... *"the writing of the golden Papa speaks with a tongue of trumpets for itself..."* (T. Mayne Reid X, p.63).

It should be noted that each of the considered stylistic devices has its own specificity, which is transmitted to the created visual image and largely determines its expressiveness and emotional load.

Of particular interest are those images that are created at the super-phrasal level, that is, they are created not simply by means of lexical, syntactic and other stylistic means, but require the involvement of a wide context. In the text, they can be folded into complex, complex images of the characters in an artwork.

It is the external image of the character of the artwork and is a complex way. The description of the character's appearance forms a kind of visual image for the reader, while studying two aspects is of particular interest: the means of creating this image used by the author, and the mechanism of their use in an artwork.

1. Halperin I.R. Essays on the English stylistics . M., 1958.
2. General linguistics. Linguistic research methods M.: Science, 1973.
3. Kuznetsov M.D. and Skrebnev Yu.M. "Stylistics of the English language", L., 1960.
4. Tokmakov A.N.. Metonymy as a means of pragmatic influence (on the material of French film critics): Abstract of the ... candidate filol. Sciences - M., 2000. - 23 p.
5. Thomas Mayne Reid. The Helpless Hand; or, a Tale of Backwoods Retribution / Reid T.M. - Beadle's half dime Library, Vol. VI, No. 137, 1978.
6. Thomas Mayne Reid. The Child-Wife / Reid T.M. - London - George Routledge & Sons, limited New York: E.P. Dutton & CO, 1976.