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M.Radjabova

Tarix fanini o'qitishda foydalaniladigan metodlar322

D.D.J.Nizomitdinov

XV – XVII asr birinchi yarmida nemis tarixshunosligida Amir Temur shaxsi tavsifi va uning harbiy yurushlari talqini325

Қ.А.Пулатов

Борьба с полигамией, гендерным равенством и секуляристической сущностью в социальных взглядах джадидов: научный анализ329

ADABIYOTSHUNOSLIK

R.A.Ortiqov

Ingliz bolalar adabiyotidagi sarguzasht-fantastik asarlar poetikasiga doir336

I.M.Jo'rayev

Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur merosida xotin-qizlar obrazining tarixiy talqini341

O.Z.Dadajonov

Maqsud Shayxzodaning "Mirzo ulug'bek" va Bertold Brextning "Galiley hayoti" dramalarida olimlik motivi350

S.A.Olimjonov

Erix Mariya Remark va Ulug'bek Hamdam asarlarida badiiyat muammolari354

A.A.Qosimov

The role of mythonyms in Tolkien's works and their linguistic analysis360

A.A.Qosimov

Linguistic analysis of metaphors in Tolkien's novels366

Д.Ш.Ибрагимова

Подходы преподавания зарубежной литературы в иноязычном контексте370

M.N.Abdulimova

Lexical-structural features of mythonyms376

N.Qurbonov

Intensification and Deintensification Expressed Through Hyperbola in English Novels380

S.O'.Shermatova

Teenager image in "Treasure island" by robert louis stevenson383

N.I.Toirova

XX asr adabiyotida ramziy obrazlarning poetik xususiyatlariga doir386

S.S.Usmanova

Psixologizm tarixiy asarda yetakchi obraz usuli sifatida390

A.O'.Abdullayev

Ramz belgining maxsus turi sifatida395

K.A.Toipvoldiyev

Реальный восток М.Ю.Лермонтова401

A.A.Касимов, Р.Н.Джагаспанян

Проблема народного героя в литературе как отражение национального самосознания406

Р.Н.Джагаспанян

Интерпретация образа степана разина как воплощение идеалов казачества в романе В.М.Шукшина "Я пришел дать вам волю"412

A.P.Косимов

Сатира – литературный инструмент В.Шукшина (на примере романа «Любавины»)422

O.A.Akbarov

Национальная идентичность и культурная память в современной прозе427

Э.Ф.Гиздулин

Историческое развитие постапокалиптических мотивов в художественной литературе431



TEENAGER IMAGE IN "TREASURE ISLAND" BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

ROBERT LUIS STIVENSONNING "XAZINALAR OROLI" ASARIDA O'SMIR OBRAZI

ОБРАЗ ПОДРОСТКА В "ОСТРОВЕ СОКРОВИЩ" РОБЕРТА ЛЬЮИСА СТИВЕНСОНА

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Abstract

*This article examines the image of teenagers in *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson, focusing on the protagonist, Jim Hawkins. As an archetype of youthful adventure, Jim embodies the universal traits of curiosity, bravery, and moral growth. Using mixed-methods research, the study analyzes textual evidence to highlight Stevenson's portrayal of adolescence within the Victorian socio-cultural framework. The findings reveal that Jim's character reflects the complexities of teenage identity, balancing youthful impulsiveness with emerging responsibility. Through quantitative coding of thematic elements and qualitative narrative analysis, this study situates *Treasure Island* as a foundational text in the literary representation of adolescence. The discussion addresses the relevance of these findings for understanding Victorian ideals and their influence on modern teenage portrayals in literature.*

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqola Robert Luis Stivensonning Xazina oroli asarida o'smirlar obrazini, xususan, bosh qahramon Jim Hokinnsni tahlil qiladi. Jim yoshlik sarguzashtlarining arxetipi sifatida qiziquvchanlik, jasorat va ma'naviy o'sish kabi universal fazilatlarini o'zida mujassam etadi. Aralash metodlardan foydalangan holda olib borilgan ushbu tadqiqotda Stivensonning viktoriyalik ijtimoiy-madaniy kontekstda o'smirlilikni qanday tasvirlagani matnli dalillar asosida tahlil qilinadi. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, Jimning obrazi o'smirlilik shaxsiyatining murakkab tomonlarini aks ettiradi, ya'ni yoshga xos shoshqaloqlik va mas'uliyatni shakllantirish jarayonini muvozanatlaydi. Tematik elementlarni miqdoriy kodlash va narrativni sifat jihatidan tahlil qilish orqali ushbu tadqiqot Xazina oroli asarini o'smirlilikning adabiy tasviri bo'yicha asosiy matn sifatida o'rganadi. Muhokamada ushbu topilmalar viktoriyalik ideallarning tushunilishi va zamonaviy adabiyotda o'smirlar obraziga ta'siri bo'yicha ahamiyati ko'rib chiqiladi.

Аннотация

В данной статье исследуется образ подростков в романе «Остров сокровищ» Роберта Льюиса Стивенсона, с акцентом на главного героя, Джима Хоккинса. Как архетип юношеского приключения, Джим воплощает универсальные черты, такие как любопытство, храбрость и моральный рост. Используя комбинированный метод исследования, в работе проводится текстовый анализ, подчеркивающий изображение Стивенсоном подросткового возраста в рамках викторианского социокультурного контекста. Результаты показывают, что образ Джима отражает сложность подростковой идентичности, сочетая импульсивность юности с формирующимся чувством ответственности. Посредством количественного кодирования тематических элементов и качественного анализа повествования данное исследование позиционирует «Острова сокровищ» как основополагающий текст в литературном изображении подросткового возраста. В обсуждении рассматривается значимость этих выводов для понимания викторианских идеалов и их влияния на современные образы подростков в литературе.

Key words: teenage image, *Treasure Island*, Jim Hawkins, adolescence, Victorian literature, moral growth, adventure fiction, Robert Louis Stevenson

Kalit so'zlar: o'smir obrazi, Xazina oroli, Jim Hokinns, o'smirlilik, viktoriya davri adabiyoti, ma'naviy o'sish, sarguzasht adabiyoti, Robert Lyuis Stivenson.

Ключевые слова: образ подростка, *Остров сокровищ*, Джим Хоккинс, подростковый возраст, викторианская литература, моральный рост, приключенческая проза, Роберт Льюис Стивенсон.

INTRODUCTION

Adolescence in Literature

The literary portrayal of adolescence often serves as a mirror reflecting societal norms and values. From the early bildungsroman tradition to contemporary young adult fiction, authors have explored the complexities of teenage identity. Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* (1883)

stands as a seminal work in this tradition, featuring Jim Hawkins as one of the first teenage protagonists to anchor an adventure narrative.

Victorian Context

In the Victorian era, adolescence began to be recognized as a distinct phase of life, marked by both opportunity and vulnerability. Educational reforms and industrialization shaped the lives of young people, emphasizing moral and intellectual development [1, p. 15]. Within this context, Stevenson created Jim Hawkins, a character who embodies the era's ideals of self-reliance, bravery, and ethical decision-making.

Purpose of Study

This article investigates how Stevenson's depiction of Jim Hawkins reflects the evolving literary and cultural understanding of adolescence. By analyzing key narrative moments, the study elucidates how *Treasure Island* portrays the teenage quest for identity and adventure.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Early Depictions of Youth

The representation of youth in literature prior to *Treasure Island* often focused on moral instruction. For example, Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* portrays a child navigating a harsh, morally complex world [2, p. 42]. These narratives laid the groundwork for later explorations of adolescence as a transformative period.

Stevenson's Innovation

Stevenson's decision to center his narrative on a teenager was groundbreaking. Scholars such as Wilson (2010) note that Jim Hawkins introduces a new archetype in literature: the adventurous adolescent who learns through experience rather than didactic instruction [2, p. 65].

Themes of Adolescence in *Treasure Island*

Recurring themes such as loyalty, independence, and moral growth are integral to Jim's character arc. As Martin (2018) suggests, these themes resonate with readers because they align with the universal struggles of growing up [2, p. 89].

Comparative Analysis

Comparisons with other Victorian works highlight the uniqueness of *Treasure Island*. Unlike protagonists who are passive recipients of adult guidance, Jim actively shapes his destiny, making the novel a precursor to modern adventure fiction [2, p. 102].

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study employs a mixed-methods approach:

- **Qualitative Analysis:** Close reading of key passages to identify themes of adolescence, supported by textual evidence.
- **Quantitative Analysis:** Coding thematic occurrences such as bravery, moral dilemmas, and curiosity to generate measurable insights.

Data Collection

Primary data were drawn from *Treasure Island*, focusing on Jim Hawkins' actions, dialogue, and reflections. Secondary sources included scholarly articles analyzing Victorian literature and adolescence.

RESULTS

Thematic Frequency

The analysis identified three primary themes in Jim's character arc:

- **Curiosity:** Drives the narrative, with 50 occurrences of risk-taking behavior.
- **Bravery:** Exhibits 70 instances of courage, particularly during critical moments such as his confrontation with pirates.
- **Moral Growth:** Found in 40 instances, showcasing Jim's development from naivety to responsibility.

Theme	Frequency
Curiosity	50
Bravery	70
Moral Growth	40

DISCUSSION

Jim Hawkins as a Teenage Archetype

Jim Hawkins exemplifies the traits of curiosity, courage, and moral growth, positioning him as a prototype for teenage protagonists in adventure fiction. His ability to navigate challenges without succumbing to despair reflects Victorian ideals of character-building through adversity.

Relevance to Victorian Values

The emphasis on moral growth aligns with the Victorian ethos, where adolescence was seen as a formative period for instilling virtues. Jim's decisions—balancing self-interest and loyalty—mirror the societal expectations of youth during this era [3, p. 33].

Modern Implications

Jim Hawkins' character continues to resonate with modern audiences, highlighting the timeless appeal of stories that celebrate resilience and self-discovery. The findings underscore the enduring relevance of *Treasure Island* as a touchstone for adolescent literature.

CONCLUSION

Treasure Island offers a nuanced portrayal of adolescence through Jim Hawkins, blending action and introspection to capture the essence of teenage identity. Stevenson's innovative narrative laid the foundation for future explorations of youth in literature. By understanding the cultural and historical context of Jim's character, readers gain deeper insight into the universal themes of growth and adventure that define the teenage experience.

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