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THE ARTISTIC FUNCTION OF WRITING IN F.M. DOSTOEVSKY'S NOVEL "A RAW YOUTH"

***Annotation:** This article examines such a subject of the material world as writing. Its functions are shown on the example of Arkady Dolgoruky's letter and Katerina Akhmakova's letter.*

***Key words:** material world, writing, detail, function.*

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ХУДОЖЕСТВЕННАЯ ФУНКЦИЯ ПИСЬМА В РОМАНЕ Ф.М. ДОСТОЕВСКОГО «ПОДРОСТОК»

***Аннотация:** В данной статье рассматривается такой предмет вещного мира, как письмо. Показаны его функции на примере писем Аркадия Долгорукого и Катерины Ахмаковой.*

***Ключевые слова:** вещный мир, письмо, деталь, функция.*

F.M. Dostoevsky is a true master of words. Every word, every slightest detail in his works has not only its direct meaning. Using perfectly ordinary objects or

details of any reality of his characters, the author gives them some kind of symbolic meaning. I.V. Ruzhnitsky writes about it in his article "The Symbolic Use of Words in the Works of F.M. Dostoevsky": "One might suggest that the more specific the semantics of a word, the greater the symbolic potential of that word. And in this respect, any word with a specific meaning in a particular context can become a symbol. More precisely, one can "create" a symbol out of it if one wishes" [3, p. 32].

But before talking about artistic details and their functions in Dostoevsky's novel, one should first define the term. Thus, according to A.B. Esin, an artistic detail is a detail of a landscape, a portrait, an interior or a psychological characteristic of a character, singled out by the writer among all other details in order to emphasize its special pictorial, expressive or symbolic value [2, p. 199]. The ability to find an interesting, full-fledged, and perhaps the only word or a vivid, unique image that sticks in one's soul has long been highly valued among artists. And the rare ability to convey one's vision of the world around through a vivid, juicy artistic detail was equated with true talent.

The main character in F.M. Dostoevsky's novel «A Raw Youth», like the earlier ones, has an idea (in this case, a "Rothschild idea"). However, according to the writer's worldview, an idea that does not translate into immediate and explosive action cannot become the main plot. A.M. Dolgoruky's awareness of his power is enough, so his idea is also not a plot centerpiece.

In this connection, it is important to pay attention to such an object of substance as letters.

As we mentioned earlier, Arkady quite accidentally becomes the owner of the "most important document." The document is a letter from Akhmakova to the solicitor Andronikov with a request to declare her father, the old Prince Sokolsky, who had senselessly squandered his fortune, insane, and to establish guardianship over him. The solicitor died, and Gen. Akhmakova became worried, for the letter might have fallen into the hands of her father, who, upon its discovery, "would have

driven her away forever, depriving her of her inheritance and would not have given her a penny in her lifetime." [1, p. 309].

Katerina Akhmakova's letter in F.M. Dostoyevsky's novel «A Raw Youth» is the impetus for the unfolding of the plot-fabulous entanglement of intrigue, incidents, circumstances, deeds, punishable acts, and blackmail that permeates the entire novel. Becoming the owner of the document, Arkady begins to comprehend the moral and social "norms" of St. Petersburg. From this point on, everything that appeared in the light of the "Rothschild" idea required evaluation.

So, analyzing Akhmakova's letter to the solicitor Andronikov, we conclude that in the structure of F.M. Dostoevsky's novel «A Raw Youth» it fulfills a plot-compositional function.

The same letter of Akhmakova is one of the reasons for the main character's reflection. It only seems to him that his behavior described in the above context is moral, which is what Nikolai Semyonovich alludes to in his letter to Arkady: "Every page leads to reflection... For example, the fact that you have kept the document with you so long and persistently." [1, p. 545].

Thus, the "most important document" in F. M. Dostoevsky's novel «A Raw Youth» performs another function - characterological.

Confusion of the protagonist of F. M. Dostoevsky's novel «A Raw Youth» act as a necessary condition for the further development of the action.

It follows from the above that Akhmakova's letter in the work not only organizes the development of the plot action, characterizes one of the reasons for the reflection of the main character, but also indicates the specifics of the genre of F.M. Dostoevsky's novel «A Raw Youth», and therefore realizes the third function - genre-forming.

In the development of the plot of the novel «A Raw Youth» most important is the process of learning and unraveling the personality of Versilov Arkady. He became a mystery to the protagonist of the novel: "Guilty or not guilty Versilov - that is what was important to me... I must certainly learn the whole truth (*italics mine*

- R.L.) in the very near future, for I came to judge a man... I had either to recognize him, or to push him away from me altogether." [1, p. 332].

The process of recognition and rapprochement between father and son throughout the narrative was not easy. The turning point in the development of the relationship between Arkady and Versilov was the latter's rejection of his court-won inheritance in favor of his competitors, the dukes of Sokolsky. The son provided his father with a letter, the reading of which suggested that the testator intended to change his mind. No one knew about this document, and therefore Versilov could have destroyed it, but he did otherwise - he acknowledged the rights of his opponents.

After that, the accents in the relationship between the two central persons in F.M. Dostoevsky's novel «A Raw Youth» change from the opposite to the better. Arkady recounts: "I was dumbfounded, but I was delighted. Truly, I was absolutely convinced that Versilov would destroy the letter (*italics mine* - R.L.). In the innermost recesses of my soul I thought it was impossible to do otherwise, and now hearing of Versilov's exploit, I came to a sincere, complete rapture" [Dostoevsky 2017]. [1, p. 375].

Thus, in this storyline, the letter helps Arkady bring out the nobility in his father's character and is also a means of bringing the two characters closer together. And, consequently, in F.M. Dostoevsky's novel «A Raw Youth» realizes two functions: evaluative and determinative.

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