

COMING BACK TO MOCKINGBIRD AFTER FIVE DECADES

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Abstract: The current article explores the return of “To Kill a Mockingbird” (1960) by American novelist Harper Lee, in “Jasper Jones” by Australian writer Craig Silvey (2009). The two novels are analyzed by contextual connection. Both novels employ the coming-of-age genre, sharing ample similarities. However, there are noticeable differences between the two. The current article deals with relationships between the two novels by analyzing the recurrence of the symbol of “Mockingbird”. It first deals with protagonists’ Losing Innocence, then extends to Social Racism towards the Vulnerable Heroes in both novels, and finalizes with varieties at the end of the day.

Keywords: mockingbird, losing innocence, vulnerable, social injustice, intertextual connection, moral

Аннотация: В данной статье исследуется возвращение романа «Убить пересмешника» (1960) американской писательницы Харпер Ли в романе «Джаспер Джонс» австралийского писателя Крейга Силви (2009). Оба романа анализируются с точки зрения контекстуальной связи. Оба романа относятся к жанру «взросления» и имеют много общего. Однако между ними есть и заметные различия. В данной статье рассматриваются взаимосвязи между двумя романами на основе анализа повторяющегося символа «Пересмешника». Сначала рассматривается потеря невинности главными героями, затем рассматривается социальный расизм по отношению к уязвимым героям в обоих романах, и в заключение рассматриваются различия в конце романа.

Ключевые слова: пересмешник, потеря невинности, уязвимость, социальная несправедливость, интертекстуальная связь, мораль

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada amerikalik yozuvchi Harper Lining "Masxaraboz qushni o'ldirish" (1960) asarining, avstraliyalik yozuvchi Craig Silveyning "Jasper Jones" (2009) romanida qayta namoyon bo'lishi o'rganiladi. Ikkala asar kontekstual bog'liqlik asosida tahlil qilingan. Har ikkala romanda ham voyaga yetish janri qo'llanilgan bo'lib, ular o'rtasida ko'plab o'xshashliklar mavjud. Biroq, ular o'rtasida sezilarli farqlar ham bor. Ushbu maqolada "Masxaraboz qushi" ramzining takrorlanishini tahlil qilish orqali ikki roman o'rtasidagi munosabatlar o'rganiladi. Avvalo bosh qahramonlarning begunohlikni yo'qotishi, so'ngra ikkala romanda ham himoyasiz qahramonlarga nisbatan ijtimoiy irqchilik nohaqlik masalasi ko'rib chiqiladi va nihoyat, romanlar o'rtasidagi yakuniy tafovut bilan tugallanadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: masxaraboz qushi, begunohlikni yo‘qotish, himoyasiz, ijtimoiy adolatsizlik, intertekstual aloqa, moral

Introduction

One of the masterpieces of the world’s literature, “To Kill a Mockingbird” by American novelist Harper Lee, is the book that leaves deep morals in every single reader. The symbol of the Mockingbird refers to innocent heroes who were blamed for misdeeds that have nothing to do with them. After five decades, Australian novelist Craig Silvey gave a new life to the masterpiece of Harper Lee, “To Kill a Mockingbird”. Even though the two books have ample similarities, they still have differences in settings and episodes. This article aims to discuss the rebirth of the symbol of “Mockingbird” in “Jasper Jones” by Craig Silvey. With the help of Mockingbird, it decodes the secrets of society by exposing injustice and prejudice. Both novels employ the coming-of-age genre, sharing ample similarities. However, there are noticeable divergences between the two. The current article deals with relationships between the two novels by analyzing the recurrence of “Mockingbird”.

Methodology

The article utilizes a contextual analysis method to analyze the two selected novels. By employing the current method, I am exposed to the ocean of deep social racism and how far it depicts the inner state of young protagonists. The two novels are compared and contrasted by the following features: losing innocence, social racism, and verities at the end of the day.

Protagonists’ Losing Innocence

By observing protagonists, one can feel the reappearance of the mockingbird in “Jasper Jones” as innocent heroes. Tom Robinson is replaced by Jasper Jones, and Boo Arthur Redley’s innocence reappears in mad Jack Liniel. During the period of their lives depicted in the novels, two protagonists, Scout Finch in “To Kill a Mockingbird” and Charlie Bucktin in “Jasper Jones”, lost their pink glasses. They started facing injustice in society towards vulnerable people. Scout Finch in “To Kill a Mockingbird” started facing injustice in the Trial of Tom Robinson, when she witnessed a pure person being blamed for harming a lady. In reality, the story was developing in a different color. In contrast, he tried to help her every single time when she asked about it, despite having only one healthy hand. He felt sorry for her as he considered her a tender woman, even though she was a white woman and he was black. It is depicted so delicately that you can feel the atmosphere of that era:

“You did all this chopping and work from sheer goodness, boy?”

"Tried to help her, I says."

Mr. Gilmer smiled grimly at the jury. "You're a mighty good fellow, it seems-did all this for not one penny?"

"Yes, suh. I felt right sorry for her, she seemed to try more'n the rest of 'em-"

"You felt sorry for her, you felt sorry for her?" Mr. Gilmer seemed ready to rise to the ceiling. (Lee, 1960, p. 224)

In that period of time, white people were considered as lords and, in contrast, black people were treated as slaves.

If indulging in "Jasper Jones", Charlie Bucktin describes his feeling as follows: " Everything in my world that was steady and sure and sturdy has been shaken out of place, and it's now drifting and swirling back down in a confetti of debris. A book I knew by heart, torn up and thrown into the air. Everything has been rocked with such rigor and tumult. Everything has been uprooted and broken. A dozen disasters at once. I can't begin to collect the pieces and try to set them as they were. It's like I've got to crawl out of my own eggshell and emerge." [1] The moment described in this quote is the exact time of his witnessing the death of the lost lady, Laura Wishart, who made suicide. It was the opening of his eyes from childhood sleep, becoming an adult, not a boy already! He has no proof, but he knows for sure that Jasper Jones is innocent. However, Charlie sees the only and the first suspect is Jasper Jones. He was arrested and tortured to sign a confession; however, he strongly denied it, as he had nothing to do with her death.

Social Racism towards the Vulnerable Heroes

Contextual connections between two novels are especially showcased in the racial discrimination against black people and mixed-race people by white people. It makes the protagonists come out of their shells to look at the world of unfair racial bias through the eyes of adults. As they witness prejudice for the first time, it makes them feel vulnerable, powerless to the extent that they cannot react or penetrate the situation. It makes them look at their lives from different angles. The trial of Tom Robinson ("To Kill a Mockingbird"), for example, made Scout and Jem come of age. "English literature often focuses on interpersonal relationships centered on individual desires, emotional connections, and personal growth. Works like Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird (1960) explore themes of love, friendship, and moral choices, where characters prioritize personal happiness and ethical considerations, showcasing a more individualistic worldview." [3, p. 25]

"In "To Kill a Mockingbird," the community is a powerful force that shapes the characters' actions and beliefs. Lee explores both positive and negative aspects of community influence, showing how social norms can enforce justice or perpetuate prejudice. This more complex portrayal of community reflects the nuanced perspective often seen in English literature." [3, p. 26]

Because of discrimination, they became older than their peers within a short period of time. Jasper Jones ("Jasper Jones") had no one to rely upon unless Charlie Buchtin. Even though he barely knew Charlie, he had no choice but to trust an almost stranger. However, Charlie's pure eyes and childish, soft heart built trust to share his biggest secret he had ever had. Although Charlie was a white boy, he still seemed to have no racial prejudice.

Varieties at the End of the Day.

Harper Lee's novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" explores the moral choices people make and how they can affect the lives of others. Through the story of Atticus Finch and his family, the novel explores the idea of morality and how the society around us can challenge it. Atticus is a moral man who stands up for what he believes in, even when it is unpopular. He is willing to stand up for justice and equality, even if it means going against the majority. His moral choices have an impact on the people around him, from his children to the residents of Maycomb. The novel also examines the consequences of immoral choices. The character of Bob Ewell is a prime example of this. His immoral choices, such as his racism and his attempts to harm the Finch family, have a negative impact on the people around him. His actions lead to the death of Tom Robinson and his own death at the hands of Boo Radley. The novel shows how immoral choices can have far-reaching consequences and how important it is to make moral choices to create a better society. To Kill a Mockingbird is a powerful exploration of morality and its impact on society. Through the characters of Atticus and Bob Ewell, the novel shows how moral choices can have a positive or negative impact on the lives of those around us. It is a reminder of the importance of moral choices and how those choices can change the world we live in.

In the other hand, "Jasper Jones" by Craig Silvey resembles the moral of "To Kill a Mockingbird" with choice of people to choose. They witness mixed-race people to suffer from their attitude towards them. It is obvious that they are discriminated against white people because of their skin color, unjustly blamed for the crimes they are not guilty of. However, except for Charlie Bucktin, people do not feel inconvenienced by insulting people who must have equal rights with every single person on this planet. Jasper Jones, a young teenager who had to grow up earlier because of the harsh traps of his life and racially unfair society. However, the victim, who made a suicide, is not Jasper Jones but a really lovely lady, girlfriend of him, Laura Wishart. She was a tender rose which could not survive in the society and family where mother, her biological mother, closed her eyes to sexual abuse of her daughter to save her relationship and family with Laura Wishart's stepfather. The novel shows how immoral it is to blame peaceful citizens just because of their being colored or mixed race.

Charlie's first observation about Jasper, whom he has never actually met until this moment, is 'people in town say he's dangerous, but I've always wondered what he's really like'. This kind of off-hand comment enforces the engrained belief that Aboriginal people are believed to be 'treacherous beings devoid of mercy or pity' due to the colonial representations of them [4, p. 85]. The protagonist, Charlie, does not believe in the social prejudice, as he never knew him or witnessed any wrongdoing from him. Published in 2009, Craig Silvey's novel Jasper Jones was a public and critical success. As well as being shortlisted for numerous awards, the novel was the overall winner and fiction winner for the indie book of the year (2009), joint-winner in the fiction category of the Western Australian Premier's Book Awards (2009), the Australian Book Industry Awards Book of the Year and Literary Fiction of the Year (2010), and the University of Canberra's Book of the Year (2013). The novel has been translated into multiple languages and has been well-received internationally. It was selected by the American Library Association as

best fiction for young adults in their 2012 list. [5] However, there is no translation into Russian or Uzbek language, which is recommended to work on for translators.

Conclusion

To sum up, the rebirth of “To Kill a Mockingbird” in Jasper Jones satisfied the needs and interests of ample of readers as being school of “To Kill a Mockingbird” in Australia. By intertextually connecting the two book, readers can feel the true value of each person created by God with equal rights to live and enjoy their life. No one can discriminate any single sole in this planet, despite their color, race, nationality, and background. The other deference in the second Mockingbird in Jasper Jones is Jack Lionel, who was revealed by the development of the story in the novel Jasper’s grandfather, whereas in “To Kill a Mockingbird” Boo Radley is not related to Jem and Scout.

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