

Summary of doctoral thesis

"Archetypes in European and Arabian Fairy Tales as Models of reconstruction of the Cultural Image of the World. Comparative Study"

Fairy tales have a triple function in culture: they are a product of culture, a carrier of cultural content, and a component for the creation of new creations of culture. These texts reflect human existence, depict the fight between good and evil, and present the search for happiness in life, have been inspiring recipients for centuries: they teach, entertain and integrate, influence the formation of an individual's value system and his or her personal development, but also constitute a bond of the community, outlining a circle of values, rules and signs identical to a community. Fairy tale all over the world (although their classification is not uniform due to the evolution of genres) have a influence for narrative and paradigmatic thinking, contribute to the construction of knowledge, and for the modern recipient, they are a reflection of the cultural image of the world of the communities that create and cultivate them. Fairy tales inspire researchers, both European and Arabian fairy tales have been subject to many studies. However, comparative researches have focused on a narrow and uniform analysis of literary fairy tales as the achievements of one author (literary perspective), a collection of stories from one community or the influence of folk tradition and old tales on the literary creation of contemporary writers (historical perspective) and the adaptation of motifs in the broadly understood mass culture (sociological perspective). This thesis is a response to the need for comparative intercultural research - a compilation of European fairy tales and Arabian. Based on Carl Gustav Jung's theory of archetypes, an innovative compilation of fairy tale stories based on key archetypes and symbols was created. The study presents metaphysical beings, human beings, animal beings, spaces, states and processes, the symbolism of light, the symbolism of numbers, religious symbols and rituals. The analysis of the modeling of these motifs in fairy tales shows the cultural image of the world of European societies and Arabian. Archetypes in European and Arabian fairy tales are the same, which follows from the supra-cultural and supra-civilizational human condition: psychophysical needs, feelings typical of particular stages of life. Archetypes are universal, timeless and transcultural. Fairy tales draw on authentic human experiences, presented by people, metaphysical beings or animals, in order to enrich the recipient with conclusions and reflections. There is also a significant similarity in the symbolism of numbers in European and Arab fairy tales, this is due to the fact that both the Bible and the Quran refer to the Judaic tradition and draw from it in various areas and to varying degrees, but the source of these religions is common. The depiction of history and the plot background are different in European and Arab fairy tales. The presented world contains elements that allow us to reconstruct the image of the world - both cultural and natural, which are included in the description of the presented world. Customs, rituals, clothes and dishes typical of the countries in which the fairy tale was created allow us to imagine the realities of the characters' lives. The description of nature, which constitutes the background for the described events, reflects the landscape of a given country, often harmonizing with the feelings of the characters. An important difference is the openness to spirituality - greater among Western people than Eastern people, which confirms Jung's theory. Characters in European stories trust magic and sorcery more often, Arabian characters - God, they have a significant advantage in zealous profession of faith and religious practices. This thesis is an introduction and inspiration to in-depth cultural studies based on fairy tales as cultural creations.

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