

COMPARING ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LITERATURE

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Abstract. *The paper is dedicated to comparing the English language and Russian literature. It also analyzes the controversial opinions of literature as a whole. The research touches upon the problem of reading procedure arrangement (such the best age and time period to begin reading). It considers the problems of both plot and writers` ways to express ideas.*

Keywords: *atmosphere, author`s philosophy, English literature, Russian literature, plot.*

Topic relevance Our topic is up-to-date, as firstly, it deals with several sciences, including art-studies, psychology and philosophy. Secondly, there are a lot of controversial opinions about literature. On the one hand, many people including some writers themselves say that there isn`t much difference between reading and enjoying books or not and getting the information from any other media, such as TV, radio and so on. They consider literature to be only the exterior of receiving all kinds of information. However, others believe it to be incorrect. Therefore, our research is based on paradoxical thinking stimulation. We know paradoxical thinking to be the kind of thinking in which mutually exclusive judgments are compared for the new knowledge to emerge.

Research aim, object and tasks The research aim is to compare controversial opinions existing about literature. Therefore, our research object is literature. The tasks are to: formulate the literature characteristics, consider their advantages and disadvantages, find the arguments for each trait, analyze the main reading strategy arrangement.

Research outcomes Books can be considered from different standpoints. The first standpoint is informational. Unlike other information sources, the contents of books are characterized by much more details given.

The second viewpoint is economic. Books being less commercial and, therefore, a mass product, book production is characterized by low financial risks. Being considered from the consumptive position, reading books appears to be a costly pastime. Compared with watching a film, the time spent on “diving into” one book is much longer. And having watched a movie for one hour and a

half or so, you often forget about it. However, reading a book, people can spend at least few days, sometimes putting it away and trying to process what you have just read. Remaining with you, the book characters, the ideas they express are likely to become part of your life. Therefore, books are also considered from psychological standpoint, their contents being a very important material for our brain and memory.

All books are different in the genre they are written in. That's why they are aimed at different kinds of readers. Opening a new book, each kind of reader has got its own purpose for this activity to be performed. Being completely entertaining, some books are aimed at giving pleasure. Those reading them do it in order to have fun. However, the main characteristic of a good book includes both author's philosophy and atmosphere.

There are also different viewpoints about the age to begin reading serious literature. On the one hand, some people think that this literature is of no use for those who are under 28 years old, as such people are unable to appreciate it. However, on the other hand, it is easier to think in the philosophical way, provided you are young, since you are not so responsible for your thoughts before the society and more importantly before yourself than an adult. Young people are not punished too much for their opinions. As the society is unlikely to punish young people for their opinions, they do not have to change the world according to them. Therefore, young people are capable of thinking in the more independent way than adults that enables them to understand literature even better than adults.

Another standpoint reading is considered from is pedagogical. A person ought to use a sort of methodology to develop his own preferences in reading. The first aspect is selecting the moment of time for reading. It is advisable to read during some vacations or holidays, when a reader is free to think and use his own time. Another aspect is regularity. Provided a person reads regularly, this kind of activity can become tiresome. Therefore, our research hypothesis is provided a person works out his own reading methodology, he is likely to become more decisive in selecting literature to read.

The first book we have considered is "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Breadberry [4]. This book contradiction is on the one hand, you are certain to have heard about any anti-utopia predicting the past. But having predicted the present, this book appears to be the most unique one. Contrasting with others, this book is aimed at citizens, but not the government. The book is dedicated to the way in which both culture and entertainment have been developing. The book covers such issues as: 1) how much human feelings really matter; 2) what you should do, provided you are one of the few who excepts the truth; 3) whether democracy can be considered as crypto-totalitarianism. The former is known to consider a person as the subject.

The advantages of this book are the following. Firstly, you can relate yourself to the plot easily. Secondly, this book is actually easy to read. Telling

straight about its contents, the book does not contain any second subtext. However, being a good book to get into, it should not be treated in a too serious way.

The second example of a book we have analyzed is “The roadside picnic” by Strugatskiye Brothers [1]. Being an undeniable king of science fiction and an absolute masterpiece, this book is certain to be the reading required for anyone. Provided you are reading this book, you are unlikely to manage doing any other serious things at the same time. The reason is that this book can be evaluated as very thought-provoking and interesting. The issues covered by this book comprises: 1) what the progress is and what dangers are likely to result from it; 2) What nature human species possesses. The author predicts that the humanity is certain to become unrecognizable in the future. On the one hand, it may seem that the book has got the best ending. However, on the other hand, you can understand that it is the opposite idea concealed behind it. Compared with the previous one, this book doesn't hold you by the hand, having a clear talk, but it rather lets you decide freely what to make of it.

The third example of the book is “It is hard to be a god” written by Strugatsky brothers [2]. The book makes us think about it for several months. It covers a lot of topics including: 1) What should defy society and the world; 2) the world order and collective subconscious; 3) the individuals' intellect. It also gives the answer to why if the god is good, he will not do something for me.

The fourth example that is worth analyzing is “We” by Zamiatin [3]. It is the best anti-utopia that has been ever made. Reading it appeared to be an unforgettable experience both in a good and bad way, but mostly in a good way. I am unaware of what I have been doing more – reading or putting it away in order to make a little debate in my head over the past few text lines. The narrative being not linear and well-structured, the story becomes very interesting. There is also one thing that almost no one gets: the uncertainty of whom it is about- either the aliens or future humans. This aspect manages to change the way in which you follow the narration. This novel can be considered as the best eugenics criticism example. It asks so many questions that a reader sometimes gets tired of them.

Conclusion Provided you would like to read a 200-year-old book, it is essential to be very decisive, as it may have become very old in our eyes. It is advisable to avoid reading too old books, because you are likely to read 500 pages waiting for it to get really good. It is possible to choose an old book, provided someone advises you to do it. We believe the American literature to be the best to start reading, as it sounds absolutely honest with a reader. Contrasting with Russian literature, American literature is characterized by evenly speeded content. Thus, reading it consumes less of your time, however you will not have a big talk about it with your friend and it is rarely multilayered.

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