ARCHAISMS IN THE NOVEL "FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS" BY ERNEST HEMINGWAY: TO UNDERSTAND OR TO SKIP?

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Language can be compared to humanity. It also improves, develops and changes. It has its past and present. At the same time, language invariably fulfills its utmost importance – it serves as means of communication. Since language is constantly changing, many words disappear from use and new words appear. We can see that language is getting as old as humanity.

While reading English-speaking literary works we faced a problem that pupils don't understand the meaning of some words and sometimes it's hard to understand the plot at all. While pupils of senior classes try to comprehend the meaning of these words, pupils of secondary classes usually skip them.

English, like any other language, regularly evolves: it gets rid of some already clearly obsolete words and expressions, the so-called archaisms. In English lexicology, archaisms, which are the words that have finally emerged from a language that is marked «old» are denoted by the term «obsolete words». Their meanings are understandable, but they are almost never used. It is unlikely that today we will hear the following words: ere, hither, thither. The reason for the appearance of archaisms is in the development of the language and in the updating of its dictionary [1].

If we open a book written several decades ago, we will find in it words like "whilst", "hitherto" and many others that are not used today. Nevertheless, archaisms keep the history of the language in themselves, and show how vividly and adaptably it can change over the time [4].

Nowadays young people are interested in Modern English literature because it is easier to read. At the same time Old English literature is fading into the background of its popularity because it is full of archaisms that are difficult to understand but by reading this literature we can learn a lot of information about the British history, culture, discoveries and mythology.

Last year I started reading the novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls" by Ernest Hemingway. While reading I came across a large number of archaisms. It pushed me to research the archaisms and to find out their meanings in this literary work.

The relevance is determined by the fact that the study of archaisms is very important in modern life, as they are still used in law, medicine, religion, rituals and traditions. A lot of them can be found in classical literature, so the knowledge of archaisms will be useful for those who plan to read English-language fiction in the original form.

The aim of the research is to identify the relevance of English archaisms on the example of the novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls" by Ernest Hemingway.

This aim involves the following tasks:
1. To identify the meaning of archaisms.
2. To analyze the archaisms in the novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls" by Ernest Hemingway.

3. To create reading tips for motivated students to understand authentic books with archaisms.

4. To adapt the text of the novel to Modern English.

In the course of doing the research the following methods were used:

1. Comparison.

2. Data analysis.

3. Classification.

4. Linguistic experiment.

The object of this research is the archaisms.

The subject of this research is the novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls" by Ernest Hemingway.

Being a member of the School Potter Club I read a lot of diverse literature in English. Hemingway's works are quite popular among our club members. This author is also one of my favourite writers. Last year, I decided to read the novel "For whom the bell tolls" by Ernest Hemingway.

I understood that it would be difficult to read this novel because the author uses archaisms in his literary work. It pushed me to identify the archaisms in the novel and to find out their meanings. It will help other pupils to perceive the text and understand the speech of all heroes easily.

Our research presents archaisms from the book that we have analyzed and found their meanings. E.g: "art"- to be; "canst" - you can (used to mean "you can", when talking to one person); "dost" - the second person, the singular form of the verb "to do"; "giveth" - the third person, the singular form, the Present Indicative form of the verb "to give"; "nada" - slang for "nothing", from Spanish "nada", from Latin "nata" –small, insignificant thing [2].

In the course of research and analysis of archaisms in the novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls" by E. Hemingway, we noticed that there is a certain part of archaisms in which the suffixes –(e)st, –(e)th and -an are present.

I have learned that two present tense verb-endings from Middle-endings are still to be found in the Early Modern period: -(e)st for the 2nd person, singular following thou (as in thou goest).

Here are some examples from the novel: hast, canst, dost, thinkest, shouldst

Suffix – eth is used to form the 3rd person singular present indicative form of verbs. In humorous meaning replaces -s or -es (of verb forms and noun plurals), or is appended to other verb forms, forming nonce, pseudoarchaic versions of the word [3].

There are some examples from the novel: taketh, giveth, saideth, killedeth.

As English language was changing all the time, suffixes disappeared.

Suffix – est was dropped when the uniquely singular "thee/thou/thy" fell out of use.

Suffix – eth was eventually replaced by -s or -es; the point being that language changes over time and tends to move toward simpler forms.

Suffix – an is used for the infinitive form of archaic verbs. The suffix -an changes based on what position it stands in the first person, singular, the second person, singular and the third person, singular.

There are some examples from the novel: swincan, willan.

Ernest Hemingway is a modern writer. So we can find the archaisms only in his book "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and not so huge number of them as in works by W. Shakespeare, S.T. Coleridge and J. Keats.

It was interesting to identify what parts of speech are found among the archaisms and what is their ratio. 46 archaisms were determined. They include 22 verbs that is 50 %, 11 nouns that is 25%, 7 adjectives that is 16%, 4 pronouns - 9%. In the text there is an archaism "nay" with the meaning "no" and the phrase "thou art" which means "you are". The novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls" may seem like a difficult literary work to read. That's why we created some useful tips for students who want to read this book. My recommendations are universal. You can adapt them to read any text with archaisms.

We studied archaisms in the novel. Using the table that we created for translating the archaisms into Modern English, I understood the plot of the book I have read. I adapted some parts of the novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls" with archaisms into Modern English.

We can make the conclusion that the usage of archaisms makes the literary work more realistic. Analyzing the archaic words in the novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls" we can define that they give a piece of writing the flavor of olden times, give the literary work an intriguing and mystical character than easily recognizable words. We are going to continue reading books with archaisms to understand them but not to skip.

Reference

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