

Reception of the European Literary Discourse in Modern American Women's Novel

Key words: reception, european literary discourse, feminist problematic, psychological trauma, self-realization, independence.

Ключевые слова: рецепция, европейский литературный дискурс, феминистская проблематика, психологическая травма, самореализация, независимость.

Summary

European literature, and English literature in particular has always been the matrix of a kind for American women's literature. It's shown in the article how the American women's novel adopted and reinterpreted the plots and characters of English literature ("The Private Life" by J. Smiley), reconstructed classic folklore and literary plots using parody for well-known titles ("The Robberbride" by M. Atwood), quotes Dickens and Oscar Wilde in "The Book of Ruth" by J. Hamilton.

The main theme of Jane Smiley's novels - the fate of a woman, her way to self-identification is revealed in *The Private Life* historically, that is, the action of the novel takes place at the end of the 19th-the first half of the 20th century. The first part of the novel is a parody at J. Austen's novels. Margaret, the main character of "Private Life", reminds of the heroines of J. Austen- a clever, well-read, intellectual person. According to the tradition of J. Austen's novels she gets her prize at the end of this part-a rich and handsome young man as the husband. The story of her married life is the denunciation of the institution of marriage as Smiley sees it.

Feminist problematic is dealt with in many novels by Margaret Atwood: *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Robberbride*, *A Cat's EYE*. In *The Robberbride* three heroines of the novel oppose one devilish heroine, Zenia, the embodiment of Evil, who destroyed their lives by tempting and taking away their husbands or a beloved. So the writer takes the title and reinterprets the plot of the fairy-tale by brothers Grimm to express her idea of the necessity of self-realization for women.

It's noteworthy to point out how masterfully the heroine, Ruth (or, rather, the writer Jane Hamilton who created her) recreates Dickens's style, his irony in her book and makes allusions to Oscar Wilde in the novel *The Book of Ruth*.