Individual essay contest

“Unity in Diversity: Russia and the English-Speaking World. Time for Equal Opportunities”

«Love and hatred in Russian and English Literature»

«Любовь и ненависть в русской и английской литературе»

«Gymnasium №44», Kursk

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Theses:

1. The topic of love and hatred has always been widely spread in both Russian and English literature.
2. The definition of a word “love” and a word “hatred” has similar features in both languages.
3. Understanding of the feeling of love and hatred is similar by readers of both nations.
4. The works of literature by Russian and British authors about love and hatred have common plots.
5. No matter where and when people live, they demonstrate their feeling in the same manner.

Love and hatred are not in our power.

Anton Chekhov

The subject of love and hatred has agitated the minds of writers and poets all over the world for centuries.

The works of literature are the reflection of culture, traditions, conditions of people's life, their mentality, character, moralsand the system of values.

In this essay English and Russian literatureis compared through the analysis of literary receptions and we have tried to answer the question: "Do the authors living in different times and presenting different nationalities express the feelings of love and hatred in their works?". Without any doubt, the love and hatred know neither borders nor time. All people on the planet love and wish to be loved; they can hate and can be hated. Being in love, we are totally absorbed in the atmosphere of tenderness, care, kindness. On the contrary, hatred creates unpleasant atmosphere, which harms the society and ruins it. Love obduces with warmth and goodness but hatred trickles out with caustic rage. This can be felt by everyone, no matter what nationality you are - a Russian person or an Englishman.

The first part of our work is devoted to the analysis of the words "love" and "hatred" in Russian and English dictionaries. After such analysis we have come to the conclusion that they have much in common. (Appendix 1)

The subject of love and hatred in literature is eternal, and at the same time always new. It reflects the experience and the way of life of people the country and the epoch they live in.

The second part of our work is devoted to the analysis of two great masterpieces "Romeo and Juliet" (1595)by W. Shakespeare and "Mistress into Maid" (1830) by A.S. Pushkin.These works were written in different times and in different countries, but after reading them, we immediately see similar storylines.

One of the similarities is the enmity between the two families: in A.S. Pushkin's novel, there are two wealthy neighbours who have been feuding for a long time over various trifles.

G.I. Muromsky is a "pompous Englishman" as his neighbour calls him: "He laid out an English garden, on which he expended nearly the whole of his remaining revenue. His grooms were dressed like English jockeys, his daughter had an English governess, and his fields were cultivated after the English method."

I.P. Berestov is a "bearish fan" of everything Russian: "He built a house on a plan of his own, established a textile mill, tripled his revenues, and began to consider himself the most intelligent man in the whole country roundabout, and in this he was not contradicted by his neighbors, who came to visit him with their families and their dogs. On weekdays he wore a velveteen jacket, but on Sundays and holidays he appeared in a surtout of cloth that had been manufactured on his own premises. He himself kept an account of all his expenses, and he never read anything except the "Senate Bulletins."

In the work of W. Shakespeare, there is enmity between the noble Veronese families of Montagues and Capulet:

"Two households, both alike in dignity,
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean."

The reason for "to part your cank'red hate" is explained very simply. Both families - Montagues and Capulet, notable and rich, do not recognize the primacy. An attempt by one family to rise above the second family, as perceived as resentment, which leads to new quarrels.

Another common feature of the compared works is found in the first meeting of young people and is associated with changing clothes and hiding a real personality: in the story "Mistress into Maid", Lisa turns into a peasant girl

to meet Alexey: “ He might think that I was chasing him. Besides, our fathers are not on good terms, so that I cannot make acquaintance with him …. "

A.S. Pushkin “Mistress into Maid»

In the tragedy of W. Shakespeare, Romeo, wearing a mask, enters the house of the Capulets and there Romeo meets Juliet for the first time.

W. Shakespeare "Romeo and Juliet"

The next similarity is the forbidden love of the children from the warring families. In the novel by Alexander Pushkin it is the love of Lisa Muromskaya and Alexey Berestov. However, Alexey loves Lisa without knowing who she reallyis, because Lisa being afraid of her father introduces herself to Alexey as Akulina. In the tragedy of W. Shakespearethe love of Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet is the main topic. Romeo and Juliet fall in love at a glance, unaware that their families are also struggling. It takes them some time to discoverthat the hatred between their families doesn’t let them be happy.

What is more, the young lovers meet secretly from their parents. In “Mistress into Maid", Lisa and Alexey have their own reasons for not talking about their feelings: “The thought of indissoluble ties frequently passed through their minds, but never had they spoken to each other about the matter. The reason was plain: Alexey, despite he was attached to his lovely Akulina, could not forget the distance that separated him from the poor peasant girl; while Liza, knowing the hatred that existed between their parents, did not dare to hope for a mutual reconciliation.”

In the tragedy of W. Shakespeare Romeo and Juliet, knowing about the irreconcilable enmity between their families, agree with the monk Lorenzo about a secret wedding ceremony. Lorenzo initially refuses, but ultimately agrees hoping that the union of Romeo and Juliet will put the feud between the two families to the end.

The common feature of the two stories can be also found in the final parts of the works despite the fact that the endings are not similar. In both works the reconciliation of the families can be read about. In the novel of Alexander Pushkin there is a happy reconciliation and a happy wedding of the children. While the children are dating secretly, a wonderful reconciliation takes place between Ivan Berestov and Grigori Muromsky, "ancient and deeply rooted enmity» is finally stopped.

W. Shakespeare "Romeo and Juliet"

The tragedy of W. Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" ends with a tragic reconciliationonlyafter the death of the children. The love of Romeo and Juliet is surrounded by enmity. Mourning their children the parents decide to stop the "bloody discord":

A glooming peace this morning with it brings.
The sun for sorrow will not show his head.
Go hence, to have more talk of these sad things;

Two great poets A. Pushkin and W. Shakespeare, living in different epochs and in different countries, demonstrate the readers that hatred is not a barrier for love. Only the ways to overcome hatred are different in each case.

A.S. Pushkin «Mistress into Maid»

By the example of these masterpieces of Russian and English literature we can see the similarity of the concepts of love and hatred between the Russian and English people. The two great writers W. Shakespeare and A.S. Pushkin, who lived in different countries and in different eras, showed the readers how an eternal story of love and hatred is born from similar motives.

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Appendix 1

1. The dictionary of the Russian language of S. I. Ozhegov presents the following meaning of the word "hatred": a feeling of strong hostility and disgust, to feed hatred for something.

Wordsmyth Dictionary Thesaurus gives the following definition of hate: a feeling of hate or intense dislike or hostility; animosity. The Oxford Dictionary defines hate as extreme dislike or ill will.

We see that when analyzing the Russian and English meanings, the same thing happens: the intensity of hatred, the desire to harm the object of hatred, the presence of enmity.

2. Explanatory dictionary of the Russian language, edited by D. N. Ushakov (1996), offers the following meanings of the word "love":

*. A feeling of attachment based on common interests, ideals, and a willingness to give all their strength to a common cause (Love for the motherland). // The same feeling, based on mutual affection, sympathy, closeness (Brotherly love. The love of the people).// The same feeling based on instinct (Maternal love).

*. The same feeling based on sexual attraction; the relationship of two persons mutually connected by this feeling (Unhappy love. Happy love. Unrequited love. Platonic love. Sensual love. Burn with love. To suffer from love).

*. Perrin. The person who inspires this feeling (razg.) (She was my first love).

*. Inclination, disposition or attraction to something (Love of art. Love of work).

Wordsmyth Dictionary Thesaurus gives the following definitions of the English lexeme love:

1) tender and passionate affection for another person;

2) deep and strong affection for a friend or relative;

3) strong interest or enjoyment, as for an activity;

4) a person, activity, or object for which one has intense affection or strong liking;

5) a sacrificial commitment, esp. in religious experience.