

Limerick as a Special Genre of English Literature and One of the Ways to Learn English

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Abstract:

The topic of this article is relevant, as it gives a more complete picture of English folk art, allows you to deepen your knowledge of the traditions of this state and shows the benefits of using such literary works in English lessons, as well as independent reading in your free time.

Keywords: Translation, literature genre, English poetry ,limericks, language learning.

The text of the scientific work The poetic heritage of Great Britain is known and revered all over the world. Every educated person is familiar with the works of W. Shakespeare, J.G. Byron, R. Burns and other English classics. But in English literature there are quite unusual genres that also deserve attention and study. Limerick is a genre of English poetry that is an important and integral element of the culture of English-speaking countries around the world.

Limerick as a genre of poetry arose a long time ago, but it gained particular popularity thanks to the famous English poet Edward Lear, who is called the "father of limerick". Initially, E. Lear was an artist by profession, quite talented and famous. But having met the Earl of Derby, who ordered animalistic drawings from Lear, and his children, the poet began to compose "meaningless" rhymes and draw illustrations for them. So Edward Lear wrote a whole collection of limericks .

The term limerick itself originated in the 1870s. and in 1890 was listed in the Oxford Dictionary. There are a large number of different assumptions about the origin of this term. So, some researchers believe that the poets of Ireland in the 18th century composed poems that are very similar to modern limericks during feasts and celebrations . There is also an assumption that the word "limerick" comes from the Irish words "a merry lay" - "a cheerful song." Another hypothesis says that the word "limerick" comes from the eponymous name of the city in Ireland, which has a history of more than 1000 years.

Starting from the end of the 19th century. the genre of limerick poetry is becoming widely known both in English-speaking countries and beyond. Many famous writers and poets have tried their hand at composing limericks. So, you can find limericks by L. Carroll, R. Kipling, J. Galsworthy, M. Twain, A. Bennett and others. There are also a lot of limericks written by unknown authors. And now this genre does not lose its popularity in many English-speaking countries, where there are even competitions for lovers to compose and recite limericks. Limerick writing proved to be such an infectious activity that it found many followers not only in English-speaking countries, but also beyond. Today, a huge number of limericks are posted on the Internet, not only in English, but also in Russian, and Russian limericks are not always translated.

Limericks originally had a great humorous focus, they are very easy to remember and reproduce due to their light, elegant sound, simple form and rhythm. Although the limerick is limited to strict rhyme, its character makes it easy to vary by various linguistic means. Very characteristic of this genre is a deliberate play on words. Also, the favorite technique of many poets was the use of neologisms when writing limericks. Thus, the neologisms used by E. Lear have already become an

integral part of English literature and the language as a whole . All the funny and funny events that are usually described in limericks are somewhat unrealistic, implausible. In the unusualness, strangeness and eccentricity of these works, one can see the features of the famous British humor, which is often gloomy and not entirely clear to ordinary people. And it is in limericks that one can see the most vivid manifestation of such folk humor, which, thanks to this genre, becomes publicly available for analysis, observation and study .

Limerick, like any literary work, has a form, content, expressive means. Then the question arises, what is the nonsense and eccentricity of this genre. As a result of the analysis of a large number of limericks, we can conclude that the plot of any limerick can include anything, as long as it is funny, despite the logic and meaning. Limericks are such poems that contain absurdity, fabulousness, humor, hidden meaning, and morality, albeit implicitly expressed. Limerick has a very clear, uniform shape for everyone. It always consists of exactly five lines. The first line introduces the reader to the hero and the name of the place where he comes from. The following lines tell about some strange, wonderful act of this hero. And the last line gives information about the reaction of others to this act or about its consequences. In the canonical limerick, the end of the last line repeats the end of the first.

Thus, the analysis of several limericks showed that this poetic genre has a clear, strict form. They always have five lines, the first, second and fifth lines rhyme; rhyme between the third and fourth lines; the last words of the first and fifth lines are the same; the rhythm of the first, second and fifth lines, as well as the third and fourth lines, coincides. Limericks use a variety of expressive means: metaphors, comparisons, repetition words, puns, etc. An interesting type of work on a limerick is not only its composition, but also its translation. Limericks have been translated before and are being translated into many languages of the world. Some of the best translations of limericks from English into Russian were made by S.Ya. Marshak and K.I. Chukovsky. Thanks to their translations, the children of the USSR got to know Robin Bobin, Jack, who built the house, and many other characters. Many other authors have also been involved in translating English limericks into Russian. These authors include V. Orlov, O. Astafieva, M. Redkina and others.

The main difficulty in translating limericks is to be able to preserve the rhyme, poetic meter, not to lose the meaning and the funny, eccentric character of the limerick. To accomplish this, translators often change the names of the main characters, their geographical location, remove some additional details and add their own instead, so that the form of the work is preserved, as in the original.

In Russian folk art, there is a poetic genre similar to limerick - Russian ditty. They are similar to the limerick, first of all, in their folklore character, as well as in some external features. True, instead of five lines, four lines are sung in ditties, but the goal of both ditties and limerick was originally the same - to make people laugh, amuse, sometimes even ridicule their shortcomings. Also very interesting is the fact that the widespread use of the Russian ditty fell on the same period as the spread of the limerick - the last third of the 19th - the beginning of the 20th century. But, of course, in terms of form, the ditty is much freer than the limerick, in which strict restrictions on form and rhyme play an important role. In terms of content, English humor also has its own specifics and causes the reader not to laugh loudly, like a ditty, but rather an ironic grin.

Limericks are an original and rather specific genre of English poetry and folk art, they are of great interest to those who are just learning English and to those who teach it and speak it to a sufficient extent. One of the main advantages of such a literary genre can be called its conciseness and capacity: limericks can be read in class, translated, memorized, studied by them the pronunciation of English words, intonation, and trained in the use of grammatical constructions . Therefore, at any stage of the English language course, limerick can become one of the main methods of getting to

know English culture, grammar, and peculiarities of the use of words. Learning limericks by heart can help improve spoken English, learning to speak English with the correct English intonation.

The inclusion of limericks in teaching materials, especially in extracurricular activities, can be very useful, because along with memorizing the meanings of new words in a certain context, the student has the opportunity to learn the basic structures of an English sentence. A large number of poems of this genre allows you to select material in accordance with the age, interests and level of knowledge of students.

Thus, limerick is an extremely interesting genre of English poetry, thanks to which any person interested in mastering the English language will be able to study English traditions and mentality, grammar, structure and construction features of English sentences in depth. Based on this, it is advisable to include the use of limericks for reading, translation and independent composition in the course of learning English.

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