

Nursery Rhymes Intertext in English Fantasy

Intertextual nature of Fantasy determines the richness and diversity of allusions and references, including folklore ones. Intertextual connections with fairy tales and ballads are well known. The paper studies the use of nursery rhymes and tales (lullabies, skipping rhymes, counting rhymes etc.). Most of them were gathered in the book *Mother Goose Rhymes* and deeply influenced textual consciousness of modern readers. Quotes and paraphrases from nursery rhymes are presented in both high and popular literature. Usage of these quotations and allusions in the intertextual space of fantasy has several specific features. The fantasy writers regard nursery rhymes as the most commonly used textual template to create the effect of recognition of the fantasy world, to build the inner consistency of reality and to make the reader trust the author. (J. R. R. Tolkien). Postmodern fantasy emphasizes textual cliché with its further deconstruction, allowing to refresh reader's view of the world (Terry Pratchett). Mythological poetics of fantasy allows authors to present these poems as keepers of a secret knowledge about basic laws of the Universe. This approach actually reincarnates myth and archetypal images, initially incorporated in the children's play texts (Neil Gaiman, Diana Wynne Jones). This idea is supported by examples of renewing the sacral meanings of games, which restores its ritual and ceremonial sense (G. G. Key). Allusions to texts created for very young readers include the texts addressed to young people and adults, providing updated view of reality, restoring the original meaning of ancient symbols.

Terry Pratchett uses nursery rhymes as intertextual tools according to his basic fantasy assumption – "the world is a text" (i.e., a world where text builds the reality, working at all levels, from the mental to physical one). Such assumption determines the maximum saturation of intertextual techniques. Pratchett fills his world with material elements borrowed from the children's folklore: a candlestick belongs to Willy Winky, the mouse runs up the clock in the novel dealing with the experiments on time, elves' horses are decorated with silver bells etc. World is built with objects

that cause textual associations linking the model of reality to the intertextual space (Library space). Hidden, direct or transformed quotes are used not only for creating the textual atmosphere but also as support for the law of narrative causality, helping the reader to follow the logic of the story events. The next stage of the interaction of children's folklore and textualized world is the way in which text has an influence on the reality.

Close to the use of nursery rhymes is the use of games and game rhymes. Such examples as *ta'kiena* (*The Fionavar Tapestry* by G. G. Kay), *shamble* (*The Hat Full of Sky* by Terry Pratchett) etc. demonstrate a hidden sacred knowledge about the world and renew the original ritual motives lost in contemporary world. The subjects of the games, which were taken by the fantasy authors, are marked with the theme of transition between the worlds or the way to some other world (magical or ideal). Diana Wynn Jones (*Deep Secrets*, 1997) and Neil Gaiman (*Stardust*, 1998) use the rhyme "How many miles to Babylon" in their novels as the plot and compositional core. This dialogue of the authors strengthens the intertextual space of fantasy literature, enhancing plot motivation by knowledge that readers had got outside the novel. Thus, the value of nursery folklore as a container of secret knowledge about the laws of reality is a part of unified conceptual standard of fantasy literature. Its unity is emphasized by similarity (or complete identity) of children's folklore in the real world and fantasy worlds. Nursery folklore becomes an important feature that provides the effect of recognition and reality of fictional world.

Use of nursery rhymes in fantasy literature makes up the cultural background of asterisk-reality and links it with the reader's familiar world. It also takes on a new meaning. In the works of fantasy activation of the most archaic part of folklore takes place. Nursery rhymes in fantasy help to restore world's outlook of "humanity's childhood". By resorting metaphors of magic or modeling ideal reality, fantasy authors emphasize the role which archaic texts play in recovering of ideas hidden in the collective unconscious, open up the way for the Self through the contact with the deepest human memory.