

TYPES OF NOVELLS BY NIKOLAI NOSOV

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this work is to identify and analyze the genre varieties of the story in the works of N. Nosov. The article presents the genre system of N. Nosov's stories, the main types of stories and their subtypes are shown on concrete examples.

Keywords: *Nikolai Nosov, genre variety, typology of characters, story-action, story-research, story-reflection, activist, the thinker, researcher, dreamer*

АННОТАЦИЯ

Целью данной работы является выявление и анализ жанровых разновидностей повести в произведениях Н. Носова. В статье представлена жанровая система рассказов Н. Носова, на конкретных примерах показаны основные типы рассказов и их подвиды.

Ключевые слова: *Николай Носов, жанровое разнообразие, типология персонажей, повесть-действие, повесть-исследование, повесть-размышление, активист, мыслитель, исследователь, мечтатель*

INTRODUCTION

A children's humorous story is a special phenomenon in Russian literature. This genre is formed in the 20-30s of the XX century, and its main features are laid in the 40-50s. Among the writers who worked in the genre of a humorous story and developed it, one of the most significant figures is N. N. Nosov (1908-1976). According to O. S. Oktyabrskaya, N. Nosov "lays the foundations of a children's humorous story" [1, p. 91]. In addition, "a funny story is Nosov's favorite genre, and he remained faithful to it until the end"[2, p. 233]. The main recipients of Nosov's stories are mostly preschoolers and younger schoolchildren. The writer "comprehended the psychology of that wonderful, strange, sweet human being called a "boy". No longer a child, but not yet a young man. Namely, a boy," V. Kataev notes [3, p. 83]. In many of Nosov's stories, we see everyday, typical events from the life of a child, for example, spending the night in a pioneer camp, cooking porridge in the country, playing hide-and-seek, calculating stairs, building a skating rink in the yard, etc. The author of the stories is very familiar with the peculiarities of children's speech and children's thinking, which allows him to describe the actions of his characters with great accuracy, endowing them with authenticity and realism. Nosov's works became the object of study of such researchers as S. B. Rassadin, E. S. Neduva, S. I. Sivokon, L. V. Dolzhenko, I. N. Arzamastseva, O. A. Moskvicheva, O. S.

Oktyabrskaya, etc. Basically, scientists pay attention to Nosov's peculiar humor – benevolent, cheerful, "magnificent, inexhaustible"[4, p. 85] and address the following issues: the source of humor, comic duets and their characters, the didactic and educational impact of humor on the child. However, the problems of the genre specificity of the story and the typology of characters in the writer's work still remain poorly understood.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

During the analysis of Nosov's stories, we identified three main genre types: story-action, story-research and story-reflection. Each type corresponds to a certain activity of the child and a certain type of hero. 1. Story-action is the most common type of story in Nosov's work. He is characterized by great activity, expressiveness, independence of the characters. The activity of the characters in such stories is very diverse and multifaceted. This implies a wide variety of types of heroes. In action stories, the reader is confronted with three types of hero activity. For example, in the works "Mishkin's porridge", "About a turnip", "Gardeners", "Buddy", "Patch", the characters work, and their work is for them a way of knowing and mastering the world around them. In such stories as "Our skating rink", "Steps", "On the hill", "Putty", "Resourcefulness", "Hide and Seek" in the center of the image are children's games, and in the stories "Car", "Blob", "Cucumbers", "Sasha" Nosov depicts children's pranks.

Type of story	Type of activity of heroes	Title of the story	Type of heroes	Story-action work
"Mishkin's porridge", "About a turnip", "Gardeners", "Buddy", "Patch"	Hero-doer (optimist, braggart, destructor, naughty, savior)			
	Hero-thinker (observer, performer, savior)			
game	"On the hill", "Our rink", "Hide and seek", "Steps", "Putty", "Resourcefulness"			
prank	"Sasha", "Cucumbers", "Car", "Blob"			

Source: author's data

In action stories the main types of characters are the hero–doer and the hero-thinker. On the one hand, these types are opposed to each other as heroes in "comic duets"[5, p. 82], one of which is "strict, fit, punctual"[5, p. 82], and the other is "loose, forgetful, unable to do anything"[5, p. 82], but they complement and balance each other. As for the type of hero-doer, it can be divided into subtypes: a destructor hero who destroys everything around him, a creator hero and a savior hero, etc. Consider the story "Mishkin's porridge". The image of the main character, Mishka, has several sides: he is an optimist, a destructor, and a braggart. He confidently, with great enthusiasm, takes up cooking porridge, even boasts to a friend: "I will cook such porridge that my fingers lick, this explains the hero's attempts to "rationalize" and "optimize" his activities. Wanting to take possession of the banner, the boy commits an unfair act. He suggests to Kolya: "... let's, when everyone goes to bed, run off to

the vegetable garden and dig up our plot. We will leave a small piece for the morning, tomorrow we will dig it up quickly and get a banner" [7, p. 48]. Mishka is lazy, but this laziness manifests itself mainly only in monotonous, boring classes. The fact is that the hero's vocation is different – to generate ideas. Nosov shows the Bear constantly in some kind of activity, lively and original, this is a hero-figure. Here he manifests himself not only as an inventor, but also as a cunning man. The Bear's actions cannot be called positive and honest, but his activity is not completely destructive either – he actively digs up the garden, however, only at night, fights for the banner, etc. Let's turn to the image of Kolya, the Bear's antipode. He understands well that his friend's idea is bad, but he cannot resist him, but on the contrary, supports him. Kolya turns out to be not just a performer of Mishka's idea, but also an active implementer of it. Thus, he acts here not just as an accomplice and an obedient performer, but also as an inventor and observer. In general, Kolya can be described as a performer. The pair of the leader-figure and the performer-figure is also found in other works of Nosov – in the story "Mishkin's porridge", "Car", "Buddy". But at the same time, the type of hero-figure does not remain the same: in each story he is individualized and behaves differently. In the story "The Car" we see the types of the naughty figure and the savior figure. Mishka is the initiator of two actions at once. He offers to sit on the bumper of the car and take a ride, but then he also offers to write a letter to the policeman and say that the driver is not to blame for anything. Because of the first idea of the Bear, the heroes find themselves in a very dangerous situation: the boys cling to the car and ride it, and then jump off on the move. But in Mishka's second act – to tell the policeman the truth about his offense and thus save the car driver from punishment – the hero's honesty is manifested. Nosov shows not only the playfulness of the boys, but also their courage, desire to overcome their fear and selfishness. Mishka's friend in this story acts as a performer and savior. He understands the danger of Mishka's idea, but does not try to convince his friend and becomes the executor of his will. But when the boys are in danger, determination wakes up in Kolya. He soberly analyzes the situation. So that the Bear is not carried away by a rushing car or crushed by others, Kolya grabs a friend by the collar and drags him up. Thus, Mishka's friend also acts here as a hero-savior, brave and determined.

2. Story-research The second type of story in Nosov's work is a story-research. Calling Nosov "a master of popularization of polytechnic knowledge" [8, p. 439], I.N. Arzamastseva notes the writer's passion for technical knowledge. Nosov shows such a talent as a "popularizer of knowledge" [5, p. 75] in research stories. In them, the writer addresses the creative, inventive component of the child's personality. The heroes of the stories solve various problems in an original way, coming up with

new ways to use everyday objects. These are the heroes of inventors-researchers and observers-performers. They can be found in the stories "Telephone", "Grandfather's Brother-in-law", "Sparklers". Table 2. Models of the story-research in the works of N. Nosov

Type of story	Title of the story	Type of heroes	Story-research
"Phone", "Shurik at grandpa", "Sparklers", etc.	Hero-doer (researcher, inventor, mischief-maker)	Hero-observer (thinker, performer, savior)	Source: author's data

Let's turn to the story "Phone". His hero, Mishka, appears in it as an inventor and researcher. The hero is inquisitive, keenly interested in surrounding objects. The Bear has a new toy – a phone, and the boy begins to explore it with curiosity: unscrews the handset, pulls out the battery. But it's not just destruction. The bear is trying to make an electric call or telegraph from the phone, etc. He experiments, engages in cognitive activity, manifesting himself as a hero researcher. Mishka always tries to come up with an original, non-standard way of using things and immediately brings his ideas to life. This type of hero can also be found in the stories "Grandpa's Brother-in-Law" and "Sparklers". As for Mishka's friend, he manifests himself in a different way. Kolya attentively notices every detail, every action, he subtly feels how his mood and the mood of other people are changing, which makes this hero a good observer and narrator leading the narrative. This is a hero thinker and observer. Thus, in Nosov's stories, three main types of stories can be distinguished – story-action, story-research and story-reflection. The subject of the image in action stories is any activity of the child, in research stories - creative, inventive, full of ideas personalities of children, and in reflection stories – children's fantasies and reflections, the process of the emergence of various emotions, such as fear, and ways to overcome it. Each type of raskazov narration assumes a certain type of hero. In action stories, the types of hero-doer and observer-performer are common. In research stories, you can meet a hero-an inventor, researcher, observer, as well as a performer. In the reflection stories, the types of the hero-visionary, deceiver and braggart are presented. All these types embody various features of the comic. In addition, such diversity enriches Nosov's artistic world and helps to solve various moral issues.

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