The Satirical Narrative of Mark Twain as a Novelty in American Literature

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Abstract

Mark Twain merits to the world literature are undeniably great as he raised the American literature to another level, providing the novelty of a satirical narrative and thus, giving it new force. Furthermore, he remains an actual writer both for untold numbers of his readers and for researchers of the literary studies. The interest towards the great writer has even increased with the lapse of time.

The current thesis attempts to reveal the novelty of the satirical narrative of Mark Twain. It also emphasizes Twain's role in the American literature and abroad, and describes the other writers' and critics' attitude towards his humor and satirical style.

The paper studies the development of the literary genre of satire in America and in Great Britain in the 19th century and attempts to explore its distinguishing features according to the examples from Mark Twain's satirical works compared with the writings of such prominent British authors as Bernard Shaw and Oscar Wilde. In addition, the translation of some of Mark Twain's satirical works into Georgian is discussed.

American literature was mainly based on the achievements of the continental culture. The thesis attempts to prove that Twain's satirical works were unlike anything else written before him in America and Great Britain. His works as a phenomenon in the U.S. literature presents a novelty and is of theoretical interest and practical significance.

Key Words: satire, Mark Twain, influence, novelty, literature.