

Отже, евфемізми мають потужний прагматичний потенціал. У сфері туризму вони вживаються перш за все задля запобігання комунікативного дискомфорту. З допомогою евфемістичних одиниць адресант має змогу висловити толерантне ставлення, запобігти конфліктним ситуаціям, забезпечити ефективне ведення діалогу, без чого важко здійснити повноцінну успішну комунікацію.

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*Боднарник Марія*

*Науковий керівник – канд. філол. наук Лади́ка О. В.*

#### QUEEN OF CRIME: THE AUTHOR WHO MADE HISTORY (ON THE MATERIAL OF AGATHA CHRISTIE'S «AUTOBIOGRAPHY»)

**Formulation of a research problem.** Crime fiction is one of the biggest selling literary genres nowadays. People get so much enjoyment from reading about criminals, murders and the solving of mysteries. The primary interest of readers lies in the methodical discovery by rational means of the exact circumstances of a mysterious event or series of events, usually posing a puzzling problem concerning a crime.

The period 1920-1945 is known as the *Golden Age of mystery fiction*. Many different kinds of books were published then. The group of writers known as «intuitionists» are famous or mystery plots

with tricky, surprising solutions. They include the greatest mystery writer of all time, Agatha Christie [3, c. 73].

Agatha Christie, the most prominent female author of detective stories is an English writer, who is known for her 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections. Agatha is the best-selling novelist of all times, only the Bible and Shakespeare have been more widely read. The remarkable Christie's style is known for those features that the sheer complexity of her plot gets ignored, with numerous inventive plot elements that go to make up its complex solution. [4]

At the age of sixty Agatha Christie decided to shed the light on the fascinating history of her life, her ups and downs, her moments of happiness and disappointment. It took Christie fifteen years to write the autobiography. Now this book is considered to be a hymn to the joy of living [6, p. 14]. «An Autobiography» is divided into the following 11 parts: Ashfield, «Girls and Boys Come Out to Play», Growing Up, Flirting, Courting, Banns Up, Marriage, War, Round the World, The Land of Lost Content, Second Spring, Life with Max, The Second War and Autumn.

**The purpose** of the article is to study Agatha Christie's autobiographical work «An Autobiography», while its **tasks** are to analyze the structural components of this work, its content and meaning in the life and creative work of the writer.

**The relevance** of this study is determined by the need to identify the artistic identity of the non-detective novels of Agatha Christie, which will allow us to clarify the place of the author's creativity in the literary life of Great Britain in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The study of the detective works and life of Agatha Christie has been the subject of many scientific literary and linguistic publications. Among them are books of Jared Cade («Agatha Christie and the Eleven Missing Days»), Richard Hack («Duchess of Death: The Unauthorized Biography of Agatha Christie»), Laura Thompson («Agatha Christie: An English Mystery») and others. The language of her novels, Agatha Christie's individual style, the literary aspects of her world-famous crime novels are examined in detail. Nevertheless, the issue of her non-detective work was practically never raised before in scientific publications. In particular, one of the least studied works of Agatha Christie is her autobiography. It goes against the biographical and literary value of this life-affirming work of a famous writer. This article is aimed at filling this gap in the study of Agatha Christie's literary heritage.

Agatha Christie's "An Autobiography" begins with her recollections of her childhood. It is worth noting that it is scientifically proven that childhood affects the further life of a person and in the case of Agatha Christie, also the writing activity. **The author writes:** «*One of the luckiest things that can happen to you in life is to have a happy childhood. I had a very happy childhood. I had a home and a garden that I loved; a wise and patient Nanny; as father and mother two people who loved each other dearly and made a success of their marriage and of parenthood.*» [5]

In order to understand the impact of childhood on the future of Agatha Christie better, we will consider and analyze the circumstances in which Agatha Christie grew up. Dame Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie («*I was called Mary after my grandmother, Clarissa after my mother, and Agatha as an afterthought, suggested on the way to the church by a friend of my mother's who said it was a nice name*» [5]) was born in 1890 into a wealthy upper-middle-class family in Torquay, South Devon where she lived in a house called Ashfield with her mother and father, Frederick and Clara. The author describes her father as a very agreeable man and much loved by others. She writes: «*After his death, letters came from all over the world. And locally tradesmen, cabmen, old employees—again and again some old man would come up to me and say: «Ah! I remember Mr Miller well. I'll never forget him»*» [5]. Frederick Miller had a great sense of humour and he easily made people laugh. Her father's temper reflected a lot on family life. It was calm, peaceful, quiet and idyllic for the young enthusiastic and talented Agatha. The author's mother was entirely different. «*She was an enigmatic and arresting personality—more forceful than my father—startlingly original in her ideas, shy and miserably diffident about herself, and at bottom, I think, with a natural melancholy*» [5]. A happy marriage of Fred and Clara was that rock for Agatha, on which all the rest of her life depended.

The Queen of Crime had a brother Monty and sister Madge who were more than a decade older. In her «An Autobiography» she mentions about them like that: «*My sister was nice to me, while my brother called me Kid and was lofty—so naturally I attached myself to him whenever he permitted it*» [5]. Monty used to tease his younger sister mercilessly calling her «scrawny chicken». It offended Agatha but she continued to go trailing after the brother all the time.

Agatha was an interesting child, clever and hugely imaginative, and at the same time complicated. However, Miller (Agatha's maiden name) was recognized as «the slow one» of the family. The reactions of her mother and sister were unusually quick – Agatha could never keep up. She was very inarticulate and it was always difficult for her to assemble into words what she wanted to say [1]. Agatha knew and accepted this: «*It did not worry or distress me. I was resigned to being always «the slow one»... It is probably one of the causes that have made me a writer»* [5].

In her autobiography Agatha writes that her father's death when she was 11, symbolized the end of her childhood. «*Life took on a completely different complexion after my father's death. I stepped out of my child's world, a world of security and thoughtlessness, to enter the fringes of the world of reality.»* [5]

According to the information above, we can conclude that Agatha Christie grew up in a wealthy family surrounded by people who loved her. She did not show creative potential from early childhood, but nevertheless her slowness and ability to concentrate became one of the key factors in shaping her writing career.

Three parts of the "An Autobiography" are devoted to the writer's childhood, eight others to her adult life, which was very eventful. During the First World War Agatha Christie volunteered for service as a nurse. In the early years of the First World War she met Archie Christie, fell in love with him and married him. That was the basis of the next part of Christie's life [2]. In 1922 Archie got a job as financial adviser to the British Empire Exhibition, and they travelled around the world from South Africa to Australia, then to Canada and back home: «*Life is really like a ship – the interior of a ship, that is. It has watertight compartments. You emerge from one, seal and bolt the doors, and find yourself in another. My life from the day we left Southampton to the day we returned to England was one such compartment. Ever since that I have felt the same about travel. You step from one life into another. You are yourself, but a different self.. It was exciting to go away; it was wonderful to return.»* [5] When they got home slowly but surely Agatha began to write books and became quite preoccupied with them. After few years of family life, Agatha and Archie divorced. The writer's mother died soon after, and it came as a real shock to her.

Family through all her life was crucial to Agatha. It started with an idyllic beginning in her parents' home and then when the first husband left her and her mother died she looked around desperately to find some way of recreating that family. «*I decided that I would seek sunshine. I would go to the West Indies and Jamaica.»* [5] There she met Max Mallowan who was quite a famous archaeologist. Together they lived a very happy life with Rosalind (Agatha's daughter from her first marriage), her husband and son. Moreover, at some point in her life, Christie was going to become an opera singer and composer, during the First World War she worked as a sister of mercy, worked as a pharmacist with exotic poisons and took part in archaeological excavations in Egypt, flew on a newly invented airplane, fearlessly drove a car, adored horseback riding and surfing, even made a trip around the world. The details of the eventful life of the novelist explain the origins of her rich imagination and, therefore, reasons of her enormous popularity.

During the study of "An Autobiography", we found that Agatha Christie always had a special love for books. When Agatha was a teenager her mother said to her: «*Well, if you finish reading everything, Agatha, maybe you better write something»* [5]. These mother's words gave the girl the confidence to start. This was the beginning of Christie's writing career.

The way novelist wrote her stories is equally important to the analysis of her life. In particular, all her books Agatha started with a notebook. She put six questions: who, why, when, how, where and which, and tried to answer them, developing the plot of the story. The notebook stage was followed by the manuscripts stage.

«*Plots come to me at such odd moments, when I am walking along the street, or examining a hat shop...suddenly a splendid idea comes into my head»* [5], – writes Agatha Christie. She completed her first novel, «Snow Upon the Desert» in 1911 or 1912. Christie tried to sell it to a lot of publishers, but all of them rejected her. This novel was never published. Her second novel, «The Mysterious Affair at Styles», after six rejections was successfully published in 1920 by *The Bodley Head*, an independent English publishing house. It introduced to the world Hercule Poirot, a Belgian private investigator, who became a long-running character in Christie's works and appeared in thirty-three novels, one play, and over 50 short stories.

The idea of creating a «central» detective came to Agatha's mind in the early 20's. She wanted him to be like that: «*He should have been an inspector, so that he would have a certain knowledge of crime. He would be meticulous, very tidy... A tidy little man. ... And he should be very brainy – he should have little grey cells of the mind – that was a good phrase: I must remember that – yes, he would have little grey cells*» [5]. At that time Christie was in Torquay. One day when she came across a bus full of Belgian refugees, amongst them she saw a funny little man with an egg-shaped head, a rather strange shaped moustache, holding his head on one side and looking a bit perplexed. Agatha said that he would be perfect and there was born Hercule Poirot.

The second iconic detective created by Agatha Christie is Miss Marple. There are twelve Miss Marple's novels and a number of short stories. Agatha Christie about Miss Marple: «*Miss Marple insinuated herself so quietly into my life that I hardly noticed her arrival... I started with Miss Jane Marple, the sort of old lady who would have been rather like some of my grandmother's Ealing cronies – old ladies whom I have met in so many villages where I have gone to stay as a girl*» [5]. Unlike other detectives Miss Marple was «*The finest detective God ever made. Natural genius cultivated in suitable soil.*» [5] (Sir Henry Clithering, The Body in the Library).

Summing up, we want to point out that Agatha Christie is one of the most famous detective authors and most published writers in the world. She did really know her skills and limitations. Her aim was to write thrilling crime novels that can puzzle and confuse. In her literary works Agatha considers the psychology of ordinary person, revealing inexhaustible spiritual riches. The author is interested not in only exceptional but more specific states of soul which are pertained to dozens of people. Thus Agatha in her observation possesses bigger range of human feelings. The analysis of Agatha Christie's "An Autobiography" gave us an opportunity to study the origins of her writing talent and prove that lifestyle and intellectual outputs are in a close bond.

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*Бабій Марпа*

*Науковий керівник – доц. Нацюк М. Б.*

#### THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF PHONETIC – LEXICAL COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

The article examines the main features of phonetic - lexical competence in primary school in the concept of the New Ukrainian School. Significant changes in the status of primary education have affected the child-centered orientation of education and upbringing and the competence approach, which is the core of the educational process. Updated curricular for teaching English in the first - second grades defines requirements for specific expected learning outcomes. Also the article focuses on the general characteristics of phonetic - lexical competencies, and the difficulties that hinder the formation of these competencies.

**Key words:** phonetic, lexical, competence, New Ukrainian School, curriculum, skills.

Knowledge of foreign languages is the key to success in today's world, where intercultural communication and the processing of vast amounts of information is increasingly important.

The objective of the New Ukrainian School is to comprehensively develop the child, his or her inclinations, abilities, competences according to age characteristics. According to the objectives set, the updated curriculum, all pedagogical methods, experience, practice should be aimed at the development and improvement of all essential forces of the student's personality [3, p. 62].

One of the key competencies is communication in foreign languages which includes the formation of phonetic and lexical competence. Aspects of formation phonetic and lexical competences