

GORDON BYRON'S POETRY: LEXICO-STYLISTIC ASPECT

The study of literary language involves the selection of a set of marked elements in the text of a poetic work and the study of those connections that are established between language units relevant to manifest the identifying characteristics of the work. This analysis of language is carried out by identifying lexical groups of different volume (semantic field, lexical-semantic group), which are characteristic of this work and due to the interaction of linguistic and extralinguistic factors.

Language study is a fairly broad field of study, as writers use a large number of different language tools. The great English poet of the Romantic period, George Gordon Byron, achieved extraordinary success in the development of lyrical poetry characterized by a masterful combination of various lexical and stylistic means, that is a rather unexplored aspect of his texts.

The aim of the research is to determine the peculiarities of the functioning of linguistic means in George Byron's poetry.

The analysis of literary sources on the problem of literary stylistic devices showed that O. Bandura distinguishes the tropes of the first group (epithet, comparison, metaphor, personification, allegory, symbol), the tropes of the second group (metonymy, synecdoche, hyperbole, litotes, irony, oxymoron, periphrasis, euphemism) [1, 79]. R. Hromyak and Yu. Kovaliov note that the main types of tropes are metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, epithet, hyperbole, litotes, irony and other means of poetic speech [3, 295].

G. Byron uses many phraseological units, i.e. stable groups of words that have a partial or complete figurative meaning are called phraseological units [2, 214], in his poetry. A phraseological unit (PU) can be defined as a non-motivated word-group that cannot be freely made up in speech, but is reproduced as a ready-made unit. It is a group of words whose meaning cannot be deduced by examining the meaning of the constituent lexemes. [7, 217]. The essential features of PU are lack of motivation, stability of the lexical components.

There are several classifications of phraseological units based on different principles. According to the semantic principle, phraseological units are divided into: phraseological fusions, phraseological units, phraseological phrases and set expressions [6, 72]. The phraseological units most often used by G. Byron in his poetry are of two types – phraseological units and phraseological phrases. For example:

To them be joy or rest, on me, thy future ills shall press in vain;

I nothing owe but years to thee, a debt already paid in pain [5, 64].

The author uses in the poem «To Time» set expressions of words in vain and in pain to make the poem more vivid in terms of poetic coloring and easier in terms of perception. In addition, these combinations of words ensure consonance of lines and make the poem melodic.

Thou art so true that thoughts of thee suffice to make dreams truths ...

But rising makes me doubt, that now thou art not thou [5, 107].

In this poem «The Dream» the author uses phraseological units: to make dreams truths and makes me doubt. Such set expressions are characterized by semantic unity, but their constituent parts can be easily identified and understood. The use of these phraseologies gives the poem a special imagery and depth of thought, the author speaks sublimely about the dream.

Moreover, it should be noted that the English phraseology is very rich for it is a product of centuries-old people's creativity. Phraseologisms are important means of linguistic imagery and expressiveness [4, 208]. The use of phrases in works of both oral and written nature has a positive effect on the reader or listener, helps to convey the idea more clearly, makes stories brighter, gives a more emotional color.

It is also worth mentioning that during our research we have found numerous examples of poetic words in Byron's poems. They are mostly archaic words that are rarely used to produce an elevated effect of speech, their main function is to create poetic atmosphere [6, 57]. Like terms they do

not yield to polysemy, but evoke feelings, color the utterance with a certain air of loftiness. Poetic words are often built by compounding: e.g. young-eyed, rosy-fingered.

For example: in the poem «It is the Hour» the author uses such poetic word as deeper blue, clear obscure, darkly pure, the decline of day, twilights melt, etc. The poem is full of situations and descriptions that make it easy and pleasant to read. This poem is addressed to the people who are in love and it is full of ornaments typical of the Romantics poets.

We can find lexemes like the chant or a nightingale, the gentle winds, the music, the flowers, the dew, the stars, the moon, these are also examples of poetic words. In the poem «It is the Hour», G. Byron understands love as a big expression of a very important feeling, like something wonderful, very special, an only thing which only can happen in a concrete moment when everything in the world turns around it. He shows us love as something natural and spontaneous and that's the reason why he introduces natural elements like a nightingale, music, stars which transmit calmness and good atmosphere. All these poetic words help readers to feel the spirit of the poem and understand its meaning.

Some more vivid examples of poetic words can be found in another G. Byron's poem «She Walks in Beauty»:

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes;
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies [5, 31]

Here such words as cloudless climes, gaudy day, eloquent may bring satisfaction to the readers. Poetic words help us to determine that the poem is about an unnamed woman. She's really quite striking, and the speaker compares her to lots of beautiful, but dark things, like night and starry skies. In the second stanza the author continues to use the contrast between light and dark, day and night, to describe her beauty. The third stanza wraps it all up – she's not just beautiful, she's eloquent and innocent:

So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent! [5, 79]

«She Walks in Beauty» is a quintessential romantic poem (a male poet praising a woman's beauty). The mood is of praise for the woman's natural beauty, and the ways in which her prettiness is in harmony with the natural world of the starry sky and the night time. Indeed, the key aspect of «She Walks in Beauty» is the contrast between light and dark throughout, and the way in which the woman's beauty finds a way of reconciling these two apparent opposites. She has dark hair, but a lighter skin tone and soft eyes.

Thus, analyzing the poetic works of G. Byron, we can definitely say that the author uses a significant number of lexical and stylistic means of expression, providing melodic and expressive poetry. In addition, all the above language figures play an important role in shaping the unique style of the author. Only with the help of striking phraseological units, set expression and poetic words readers can fully understand the main motives of the works of G. Gordon Byron.

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