

ABSTRACT

dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
on specialty «6D011800 – Russian language and literature»

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"The poetics of N. Verevochkin's prose and its interpretation in literature classes at school and university"

General description of the work. Nikolay Verevochkin is a modern Kazakhstani writer, artist, poet–bard, playwright, whose multifaceted creative activity, despite the efforts of his critics and researchers to declare him a postmodernist, is still developing in line with the traditions of Russian classics. Despite his passion for journalism, he turned to prose genres quite late, at the age of forty, in the mid-nineties, when there was a tendency in society to search for spiritual values to save oneself, to move away from all new-fangled artistic systems and turn to national origins, that is, to a realistic depiction of reality and the person in it. A Russian by nationality, a Kazakhstani and therefore an internationalist, Nikolay Verevochkin is one of the significant personalities in the modern literary process not only of Kazakhstan, but also of Russia, who, with the help of words and colors, reproduces in the smallest details and concrete details the life and spiritual atmosphere of the Soviet era, the subsequent perestroika time and new life in Kazakhstan in recent years.

The entire creative activity of Nikolai Verevochkin, starting with the first stories and mythological novels unusual in style and content, including his drawings and cartoons, which he also deals with professionally, and bard songs created during his hikes in the mountains, for various objective and subjective reasons, still needs to be studied and rethought, especially in the context of modern times.

The relevance of the research work. The analysis of the research literature on Nikolai Verevochkin poetics in the context of modern Kazakh prose shows that the object of research attention of Kazakh and Russian researchers are only individual works of the writer, mainly his novel "Mammoth Tooth", "The Chronicle of the dead city", the novella "The Man without a Name", "The City Goblin, or the Fool without a trick". There is still no multilevel analysis of Nikolai Verevochkin's prose from the point of view of space and time of his novels, the leading motives have not been determined, the issues of the evolution of elements of his poetics have not been investigated to determine the ideological and structural originality of the writer's prose, there are practically no works devoted to the genre poetics of his "small prose" devoted to the children's theme. Despite the fact that Nikolai Verevochkin's "small prose", dedicated to children and about children, has already been included in the updated literature program for studying literature lessons in Kazakh schools, there are no studies of methodological techniques and innovative technologies for considering these works, undoubtedly interesting not only in terms of content, but also form. Therefore, there is an obvious need to expand the research field of the poetics of Nikolai Verevochkin's prose genres to identify the creative individuality of the artist and his

place in the modern literary process, which determines the relevance of the dissertation work.

In our opinion, the study of the writer's prose from the point of view of its poetics is promising, as it allows us to determine the general concept of the work of the Russian writer, one of the brightest representatives of Eurasianism in the multilingual literature of Kazakhstan. Nikolai Verevochkin and his prose have taken an appropriate place both in the updated school curriculum and in the educational programs of the specialties "Russian Philology", "Russian Language and Literature" in universities, but, unfortunately, theoretical and methodological methods for studying the poetics of the writer have not yet been sufficiently developed, contributing to the activation of reading and research activities of schoolchildren and students in the process of the study of modern literature of Kazakhstan.

The novelty lies in the fact that:

- it represents the first experience of systematic research of the prose poetics of the Russian writer of Kazakhstan Nikolay Verevochkin in the context of modern achievements of Kazakh and Russian literary criticism;

- It is made a structural and semantic analysis of the writer's "small prose" about children; the genre syncretism of Nikolai Verevochkin's prose works is investigated in the aspect of the traditions of classical realistic literature, on the one hand, and postmodern prose, on the other; the features of the methods of narration are considered;

- It is investigated the motivational structure of the writer's genre experiments; attention is paid to the problem of interpretation by Verevochkin of the character and actions of the new hero of the era of change; the analysis of the content of the structure of the image of the city in mythological novels is given and the functions of mythologems in the movement of the plot representing the "cauldron of meanings" are determined;

- In order to prove the effectiveness and prospects of using gamification techniques in literature lessons, interactive quest games have been created on Wordwall, Umaigra, Factile, and Kahoot platforms;

- It has been developed a technology for creating comics as texts of a "new breed" when students interpret the writer's stories and novellas;

- Methodological recommendations have been compiled for the analysis and interpretation of N. Verevochkin's prose by students at seminars on the study of the poetics of a literary text.

The object of research are the stories "Bird", "Green Rooster", "Drevograd", "Draw me a golden heart (fairy tale)" by Nikolai Verevochkin ; the novellas "Once upon a time there was a beautiful beast, or the Homeland of mammoths", "Leshka, who did not wag his tail", "Money for a bicycle"; "Sacrificial donkey", "Nostalgia for the blue-eyed"; novels "White Hole" and "Mammoth Tooth, "The Chronicle of the dead city".

The subject of the study is the semantics and structure of the poetics of Nikolai Verevochkin's prose works, little studied in modern literary studies, and the possibilities of their study at school and university.

Research hypothesis: Nikolai Verevochkin's fiction is a synthesis of realism and postmodernism, which allows us to talk about its genre syncretism, clearly manifesting

itself in short stories, novellas and novels. The leading role in the poetics of his works, considered by us in this dissertation study, is played by the plot. The definition of the functions of traditional and innovative techniques and technologies used in the study of the plot of Nikolai Verevochkin's prose at school and university allows us to identify the features of the artistic world of the modern Kazakh transpositive writer.

The purpose of the research is the methods and techniques of analysis and interpretation of the elements of the poetics of Nikolai Verevochkin's prose, which are crucial for identifying the creative individuality of the artist.

To achieve the research goal, the **following tasks** are solved in the dissertation:

- to determine the features of the genre poetics of Nikolai Verevochkin's "small prose" in the aspect of traditions and innovation;
- to explore the poetics of N. Verevochkin's novels from the point of view of the originality of the plot structure in the context of a modern neo-mythological novel;
- to develop a methodological system for studying the works of short stories and novels of the writer in literature lessons at school for the development of interpretative and research skills and abilities of students;
- to substantiate the prospects of modern case technologies in the study of Nikolai Verevochkin's prose by students;
- to consider the possibilities of research techniques when students of philology carry out educational projects on the creative work of the writer.

To implement the tasks, elements of the **following research methods were used:** in the study of the poetics of Nikolai Verevochkin's prose – techniques of hermeneutical, contextual, structural-semantic, motivic and immanent analysis; in the study of scientific concepts and points of view of researchers of a particular problem within the framework of this dissertation – analysis of the works of literary critics and methodologists; in the study of the degree of understanding of meaning and interpretation of the writer's works offered to schoolchildren and students – experimental and statistical methods.

The theoretical significance of the dissertation research is determined by new opportunities to expand and deepen the prospects for the study of previously unexplored prose by Nikolai Verevochkin, which is of interest from the point of view of genre and plot. The scientific results expand the knowledge of schoolchildren and students about the artistic world of the Kazakh writer, who, on the one hand, continues classical realistic traditions, and successfully uses elements of postmodern poetics, on the other.

The practical significance of the dissertation is that its results can be used in the preparation of lectures on the work of modern Russian writers of Kazakhstan, in particular, the poetics of prose by Nikolai Verevochkin.

The theoretical and methodological basis of the dissertation research was the scientific works of M.M. Bakhtin, Yu.M. Lotman, V.B. Shklovsky, M.N. Lipovetsky, Yu.N. Tynyanov, V.V. We have used certain provisions of the concepts of L.M. Tsilevich (in the study of the plot structure of the work), N.D. Tamarchenko (in the study of motives, chronotope and space), A.G. Kovalenko, U.M. Bakhtikireeva and O.A. Valikova (when considering the problems of transpositive, translingual phenomena in the modern literary process. Also, the methodological support for the

analysis and interpretation of N. Verevochkin's prose in the context of postmodern prose was the works of Kazakh scientists L.V. Safronova, A.Zh. Zhaksylykova, B.U. Dzholdasbekova, B.K. Maytanova, A.B. Temirbolat, S.V. Ananyeva, E.T. Kakilbaeva, K.S. Buzaubarova, O.K. Abisheva et al.

The main provisions for defense:

1 The genre syncretism of Nikolai Verevochkin's novels is caused by the author's desire to experiment with a particular genre model, to subject it to transformation, which is permissible in postmodern poetics. The object of the writer's genre experiments is his children's prose, which has absorbed elements of fantasy, fairy tales, adventures, detective stories, in which one can discover new forms of plot composition, a new hero trying to find his way in this complex world, rejection of realistic storytelling methods, non-linearity and discreteness of the plot, which allows us to talk about the writer's tendency to mixing of genre features.

2 The basis of Nikolai Verevochkin's prose under study is a realistic manner of presentation, tending to oral storytelling, which is combined with fantastic, mystical, unreal elements that lend themselves not only to rational explanation, but also often go beyond the irrational.

3 The hero of Nikolai Verevochkin's prose exists in an ordinary reality endowed with features of a well-recognized materialistic world (Stepnomorsk, Maryevka, Teschinsk, Ilyinka are attributes of the local North Kazakhstan text). Mysticism, magic, and an inexplicable infernal force are constantly invading this space that exists in real time. A different reality arises in the dreams (visions, dreams) of the heroes in a dead city, in a White hole. Magical reality is not available to everyone and only at certain moments of the tormented state of the hero, who is searching for a way out of a borderline situation.

4 When teaching schoolchildren techniques and methods of analyzing the poetics of Verevochkin's prose, interactive techniques, in particular, gamification and comics, are effective technologies for improving students' reading literacy. The effectiveness of using game services in literature lessons is explained by the high degree of motivation of children, the dynamism of their actions when solving interactive quests, and the simultaneous participation of a large number of children. The technology of using comics as texts of a "new breed" is based on the storyboard drawings of comics, develop the creative imagination of students and allow the teacher to quickly determine the level of reading literacy of students.

5 The methodology of analysis and interpretation by students of Nikolai Verevochkin's prose is based on a level-by-level disclosure of the features of the poetics of the studied works. The main purpose of the teacher's work in the student audience is to teach to understand figurative meanings, to develop skills and abilities to comprehend the hidden meanings of a work of art.

6 The final stage of the completion of the process of analysis and interpretation of N. Verevochkin's novels and novels is the project activity of each student, as a result of which they master new scientific methods of studying the literary text.

Approbation of the work: the main content and results of the research were reflected in 13 publications, including those recommended by the Committee for Quality Assurance in the Sphere of Education of the Ministry of Education and

included in the Scopus database, in reports at international scientific and practical conferences.

The course of the study and the results of the study were discussed:

- at scientific and methodological seminars of PhD students, meetings of the Department of Russian Philology and World Literature of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (09.2017–03.2023);
- during the research practice under the guidance of Professor A.G. Kovalenko at the Department of Russian and Foreign Literature of the Philological Faculty of the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (Moscow, Russia);
- at scientific and methodological seminars at the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (Moscow, Russia) - 2018-2020.;
- in the course of conducting pedagogical experiments in secondary schools of Almaty – 2020 - 2023 academic year.

Research prospects. The dissertation was carried out within the framework of the projects of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan "Paradigm of intellectual and innovative potential of personality in the literature of Kazakhstan during the Independence period" and "Russian prose of Kazakhstan of modern times: leading trends, genre, plot, hero". The analysis and interpretation of the poetics of Nikolai Verevchkin's prose in the context of the modern literary process of Kazakhstan will be continued in order to include new information about the personality and creativity of the writer in the Bio-Bibliographic Reference Book dedicated to Russian and Russian-speaking writers of Kazakhstan of the period under study.

Structure and scope of the work. The goals and objectives of the research, the logic of their solution determined the structure of the dissertation, which consists of an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion, a list of bibliographic sources of 164 titles and appendices. The dissertation is illustrated with 5 tables, 13 figures and 5 diagrams.