

**EMIL TISCHBEIN AND THE WORLD OF THE BIG CITY IN THE NOVEL
«EMIL AND THE DETECTIVES» BY ERICH KAESTNER**

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The article is devoted to the analysis of the images of the child and Berlin in the novel «Emil and the Detectives». Emil is the main character. The setting of the novel is Berlin of the 1920s. The boy is faced with difficult situations and successfully deals with every problem to become a socialized person.

Introduction. In the first half of the 20th century a child living in a big city becomes the main character of realistic children's literature for the first time. There appear a number of books, where a little person faces the world of the big city and gets the first life experience there [1]. The German writer Erich Kaestner (Erich Kästner, 1899–1974) became one of the first children's authors who chose city as the main setting for life and growing up of his characters, depicting a situation when a child has to learn the laws of social development in a huge city on his own [2, p. 102–103].

The main part. Erich Kaestner along with Hermann Kesten, Carl Zuckmayer, Joachim Ringelnatz, Alfred Döblin and other German writers is the leading figure of the «New Objectivity» (Neue Sachlichkeit) movement. «New Objectivity» is the most common translation for «Neue Sachlichkeit», but there are other translations: «New Matter-of-factness», «New Resignation», «New Sobriety», and «New Dispassion». The «New Objectivity» is an art movement which arises during the 1920s as a reaction against Expressionism. In the 1920s and the beginning of the 1930s years it becomes the leading movement in German art and literature. Its typical feature is realistic style. Writers' works are characterized by a clear and understandable language which precisely portrays reality [3, p. 15–16].

Following aesthetic criteria of this movement, Erich Kaestner writes a detective novel for children «Emil and the Detectives» (Emil und die Detektive, 1928), the prevailing topic of which is socialization of a child in a big city. The main character of the book is a little townsman named Emil Tishbayn. The boy lives with his mother in a small provincial town called Neustadt. His mother works as a home-based hairdresser. She raises the boy alone as the child's father is dead, and she works without cease to provide for the family. Mother sends her son to the big city of Berlin to stay for a while with his grandmother, aunt and cousin for holidays. She supplies him with some money to give to his grandmother, for his personal expenses and for his return journey. On the one hand the boy rejoices at his travel to Berlin by train, for the simple reason that in Neustadt there is only one vehicle – a horse-tram. Emil and his friends call a horse-tram a «jade» and consider it to be a shame for their small town. They want to see electric trams. On the other hand the boy feels fear. That is his first travel by train. He watches the road all the time so that not to miss the right station. When Emil is asleep on the train, a thief steals all the money from him. The danger often comes from the most unexpected side. So, the boy arrives in Berlin without adults. For the first time in his life Emil is in serious difficulty in a big city.

Fortunately, Emil Tishbayn meets local boys. When they hear Emil's story, they decide to help him. They follow the thief and make plans how to get Emil's money back. They are sympathetic and brave children. It should be noted that they behave like adults: they know their way in a big city well and decide what to do in their free time by themselves. The children spend much time without parents. One of the new friends tells Emil that he often spends a lot of time at home alone, because his parents go to the theater or visit their friends. From the first day of acquaintance Berlin children become true friends for Emil. He can always rely on them with confidence. That makes Emil much happier. It is a great help to have friends when you are in trouble. Children call themselves «the detectives» and act together [6, p.58]. They help Emil catch the thief. Eventually, it comes out that the thief is a bank robber. Emil does not only get the stolen money back, but also gets an award. Apart from that in the newspaper an article about Emil's adventures is published, where it is described how he became a detective and found the criminal. Besides that, one shop offers young detectives new suits in exchange for their advertising, but children refuse. They consider this occupation boring. For children adventures are more interesting. Emil and his detective pals are the heroes who, for a moment, improve the world, whose example the readers can follow.

The image of the main's character is revealed through his actions and behavior. Emil is a clever, brave and fair boy. He does not go to his grandmother without money, because he knows that his mother works hard to earn it. So Emil decides to follow the thief and to get his money back. The boy makes a promise to return the money to the man who buys him a tram ticket. Apart from that the local boys give Emil all their pocket money and characterize the boy as a grateful and honest child.

It should be noted, that in besides the interesting plot of the novel, where there are a lot of breathtaking events, the whole narration is permeated with Emil's love to the mother. The relation between the son and the mother are autobiographical. Erich Kaestner grew up in a small town and lost his father when he was young – and so did Emil. Erich Kaestner was as a good and caring son just like Emil Tishbayn is. In his autobiographical book «When I was a Little Boy» Erich Kaestner remembers that he studied well at school, did the shopping, carried firewood and coal upstairs from a cellar [5]. When Emil's mother is ill, he makes compresses for her, and when she is extremely tired from her work, he cooks for her and for himself and cleans up the apartment. He studies well at school, not because he likes his lessons, but because his mother is pleased when he has a good report from his teacher at the end of the year. Emil tells the new friends that his mother allows him to be out till 9 o'clock, but he is at home at 7 o'clock, because he does not want that her to have dinner alone [6, p. 80].

In the novel «Emil and the Detectives» events are developing on the background of Berlin. Danger, loneliness, fuss, indifference are the major problems to which the author draws attention in the novel. Emil arrives in Berlin and feels very lonely. The city is so large and Emil is so small. People do not care that he has no money to pay for a ticket, or that he does not know the name of a station where he should get off a tram. No one wants to hear about other people's trouble because people have a very busy life here. When somebody in Berlin says that they sympathize with you it means they want you to leave them alone [6, p. 50]. Emil feels very unhappy. In Alfred Döblin's novel (Alfred Döblin, 1878–1957) «Alexanderplatz, Berlin» (Berlin Alexanderplatz, 1929) the major problem is loneliness in a big city. The main character is a criminal, Franz Biberkopf. His release from prison is a punishment. During the four years of his imprisonment the city has changed to unrecognizability. Franz Biberkopf as well as Emil feels like a helpless child who is afraid of being in Berlin. He stands near a red wall and watches all trams pass by [4].

Emil describes a realistic image of Berlin of the 1920s years in the novel. There are a lot of cars and trams. They hurry round corners. It is very noisy. There are a lot of high buildings, clothes and shoe shops. Emil wants to see everything [6, p. 46]. In Alfred Döblin's novel «Alexanderplatz, Berlin» Franz Biberkopf describes Berlin, too. There are a lot of shoe shops, hat shops, beerhouses and bars [4]. Emil gets a beautiful view of Berlin. The city is wonderful. It is necessary to emphasize that there is contrast between a huge city and a small city. For Berlin busy and dynamic life is typical. Neustadt is a small, provincial town, but it is big enough for Emil. Life is quiet and plain here. In Berlin there are a lot of places of interest. Neustadt has only three squares and one park in contrast to Berlin [6, p. 79]. In spite of the fact that Emil gains a positive impression of Berlin beauty, he likes his small town and wants to live there with all his heart and soul. Apart from that, people in a small town know each other and they are always ready to give a helping hand any minute. The only thing which Emil lacks in Neustadt is the tram.

Conclusion. Erich Kaestner in his novel creates an ideal image of a child. Not only children, but also adults can follow Emil's example. He is a kind, brave, sympathetic boy who respects and loves his mother. The character of the hero is revealed through his actions. He follows the thief and accuses him of his crime. In the children's book by Erich Kaestner «Emil and the Detectives» the realistic image of Berlin of the 1920th years and his citizens is presented. Berlin is not only a beautiful, industrially developed city, but is a place of depravity and decadence. Emil Tishbayn sees the way people in the megalopolis live. The boy feels lonely and defenseless in Berlin. By Emil's example it is shown that a city dweller is a grain of sand at sea. By the end of the story Emil is no longer a wide-eyed innocent child. He learns that one should not believe everything strangers say. Life is difficult sometimes but there are many kind people in the world and a true friend comes when you need help. The boy socializes and becomes a mature member of society.

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