

the humour of the story is concentrated entirely on the play of the meanings of the phrasal verb "to look out". But do they have a corresponding lexical unit in their languages? If not, then, as in Russian or Belorussian, there are obvious difficulties in the translation of the seemingly simple story. And the only way of rendering it then is a descriptive or explanatory one, giving a reasonable account of the double meaning of the lexical item in English and thus offering a clue to what actually happens and why the funny Frenchman puts his head out.

Summing up our tentative research we claim that one of the varieties of culture specific humour is that which is produced by subtleties of the source language not available in the target language.

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THE LITTLE MAN THEME IN O. HENRY'S SHORT STORIES

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The article is devoted to the little man theme in O. Henry's short stories. The review of O. Henry's characters is given. The theme covers an ordinary man's life description, his home, place of work, outlook on life, speech. It's pointed out that O. Henry's stories reflect an American's difficulties of e. XIX – b. XX c.

An ordinary man's life has always been the main topic for the authors of all time and nations. The writers depict people's hardships, experience, hope, misfortune and joy at different times. The readers are enthusiastic about such characters and find themselves in such stories. These works are exceedingly popular, because the plots of these stories are close to ordinary people.

The little man theme had existed in the literature of different countries till XIX c. However, in XIX c. a literary character (little man) became very popular. Little man is a «denotation of rather different characters, who occupy lower position in a social hierarchy and it defines their psychology and social behavior (humility combining with injustice and injured pride)» [1, C. 494]. Among the works devoted to this topic are «The Overcoat» by N.V. Gogol, «The Death of a Government Clerk» by A.P. Chekhov, «The Vickar of Wakefield» by O. Goldsmith, the works by A. Daudet, etc.

By the end of XIX c. a new name had appeared in American journalism. O. Henry published his first story in «McClure's Magazine». His stories became widely popular, while his identity remained a mystery. Only after his death it was revealed that O. Henry was a pseudonym of William Sydney Porter. He published his humorous weekly «The Rolling Stone» in 1884. During his short career, the writer released 9 collections of short stories and a novel «Cabbages and Kings» which made a big impression on readers. Each of his collections has its own peculiarities. Short stories are devoted to three main topics: life in a big city (New York), life in the West and South of the USA. The writer recreated the life of ordinary people (shop assistants, cowboys or ordinary swindlers) who lived there.

O. Henry paid much attention to a little man's life in a big city in his works. The reason why he described an ordinary man's life was the diversity of USA's history. USA has always attracted people from all over the world. During 1880 – 1910 the population of the USA had increased in forty million people, «4, 6% of all population of the USA lived in New York in the beginning of XX c» [2]. Rich people still controlled 75 % of all property (1890s). The description of an ordinary man's life who overcomes all obstacles and has positive attitude towards all the things which happen to him, made ordinary US people think more positive. O. Henry placed his characters in a big city in order to show how they were similar to other people. The writer had never put himself above his characters. They were ordinary people as he was. He had changed many jobs, including pharmacist, teller, journalist, writer, etc. His characters also have such professions. The short stories protagonists are not upper class people, but little men living an ordinary life, barley making ends meet. O. Henry's characters are poor men, artists, actors, bankers, swindlers, who get in tricky situations and find a way out with dignity. The writer chose a low/middle class citizen and showed the difficulties of thousand other people in that job.

A typical big city citizen is Soapy (the short story «The Cop and the Anthem»). Soapy is a little man of a big city, noble, dignified. The protagonist is an unordinary beggar, he is well-dressed, has a great taste. He is hard up and wants to spend the winter in prison where he'll have enough food and warmth. Although there are

many shelters for the poor in New York, Soapy doesn't want to humble himself before philanthropists. It's beneath his dignity to beg. The main character tries to realize his dreams, however, nobody pays attention to the little man. Soapy breaks a shop-window, the policemen doesn't believe in Soapy's guilt. The main character has a diner in a luxurious restaurant, doesn't pay for it, but he is kicked away without noise. He is trying to attract police's attention (he is singing, shouting), but without results. When he decides to stop living such a life, find a job, he is arrested. Nobody is interested in Soapy's life as well as the life of other people. He is just a little ant in a big anthill. Whatever he does, nobody pays attention to him until he understands the stupidity of such behavior.

O. Henry's little man is resourceful, dignified. These traits help him to go through life. He is never depressed; he is ready to find a way out and earn money. Morley from «The Assessor of Success» feels confident in tomorrow: «Morley had not a cent in his pockets; but he smiled pityingly at a hundred grimy, unfortunate ones who had no more, and who would have no more when the sun's first rays yellowed the tall paper-cutter building on the west side of the square. But Morley would have enough by then. Sundown had seen his pockets empty before; but sunrise had always seen them lined» [3, p. 126] He earns money by tricks (5 dollars for a forged letter, 85 cents for his chemical knowledge). Everything seems to be perfect; he seems to be satisfied with life. However, when the character is alone, readers see such a life is a burden for him, he wants to change it, but can't. A little man is unhappy deep in his soul.

O. Henry's short stories show a character who stays alone with his thoughts and feelings. Nobody is interested in other people's problems. A young man («The Furnished Room») is looking for a girl he loves. His search brings him to one of the furnished rooms in the city. His sweetheart seems to have lived there. The hostess doesn't tell him about the girl he is looking for because she committed a suicide in this room and nobody is liable to rent a flat here. For the little man the city «...was like a monstrous quicksand, shifting its particles constantly, with no foundation, its upper granules of today buried tomorrow in ooze and slime» [4, p. 53]. A person's life is so invisible that he doesn't seem to exist. It's hard to find anyone, nobody cares about the others in a big city. Every man is for himself, everyone has their own troubles to sort out as other people aren't interested in them.

The short story «The Third Ingredient» is devoted to two little men living in furnished rooms. Hetty Pepper is a shop assistant who has just been fired and Cecilia is an artist. Hetty's dismissal shows that a little man's destiny depends on a big man: «The story of Hetty's discharge from the Biggest Store is so nearly a repetition of her engagement as to be monotonous. In each department of the store there is an omniscient, omnipresent, and omnivorous person carrying always a mileage book and a red necktie, and referred to as a "buyer."The destinies of the girls in his department who live on (see Bureau of Victual Statistics)-so much per week are in his hands» [5, p. 360]. Hetty doesn't lose hope because of dismissal. Lack of money doesn't despond her, she finds the third ingredient for a dinner and helps Cecilia to find her beloved. Although the characters are in the difficult position, the readers become confident in people's ability to overcome all obstacles in life and the existence of hope for better. People should never give up and put much effort into survival, because tomorrow will come and it will bring new hope and opportunity.

In short stories the writer always underlines little man's similarity and their simplicity through the descriptions. For example, through the house description («The Complete Life of John Hopkins»): «John Hopkins sat, after a compressed dinner, in his glove-fitting straight-front flat» [6]. The description emphasizes character's typical world, his monotonous life and his similarity to other little people living in such little flats in a big city. The reason why middle class people live in such flats was lack of money to buy a beautiful, comfortable house.

The writer describes the characters like other people: «Mrs. Hopkins was like a thousand others. The auriferous tooth, the sedentary disposition, the Sunday afternoon wanderlust, the draught upon the delicatessen store for home-made comforts, the furor for department store marked-down sales ...» [6]. O. Henry describes an average woman of that time who is thinking about thrift and at the same time wants to diversify her life. There are thousands of such couples like the Hopkins living in such houses with their thoughts and desires that all people in a big city have.

Characters have an ordinary place of work. O. Henry describes Masie's place of work in such a way («A Lickpenny Lover»): «There, were 3,000 girls in the Biggest Store. Masie was one of them» [7]. There is a contrast between a huge shop and three thousand girls, including this protagonist. A parallel can be drawn between a big city in which little people live and a big shop in which little men work. It's remarkable that all these shop assistants have the same fate: live in small rooms with relatives, waiting for the miracle. O. Henry describes a shop assistant of that time who is eager to set free from the routine by describing only one of them.

The writer is sympathetic to little men, because his life wasn't easy. He describes a married couple that is happy under any circumstances in «The Gift of Magi». The main characters want to please each other and sell their most valued things (hair and a watch). However, this sacrifice doesn't satisfy them. At the end of the story protagonists understand that they are the best gifts for each other. The writer underlines the little man's financial position in this and others short stories: «One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the

butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony that such close dealing implied. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas» [8, p. 1].

Characters' speech complements the little man image. It's simple, it can be heard on the street every day. Speech is represented by slang (cop, 'em, nothing, ain't, yer, etc), words and expressions which can be understood by uneducated people (laughed at me like a hyena, dago, nit, dandy, etc). Character's speech shows people belonging to a certain social class.

O. Henry is still one of the most famous writers in the world. His short stories about a real life of low and middle class people are readable by people of all ages. O. Henry draws parallels between his characters and other Americans, underlines their similarity in the short stories. O. Henry's little man is an ordinary XIX-XX c. American. The life of a little man is difficult, but he never gives up, finds ways to overcome difficulties. Readers get to know that characters work for several dollars in a week, live in small rooms, have little money, they are faced with difficulties through O. Henry's descriptions. Character's speech is understandable by people of low and middle class. The writer's love to an American little man, his sympathy for them are noticeable in the short stories.

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SOME PHONETIC PECULARITIES OF MAJOR ENGLISH DIALECTS

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Given paper is dedicated to some phonetic peculiarities of major English dialects. We have touched upon dialects spoken on the several big parts of the island. We have chosen the most interesting cases of so-called “deviations” from the accepted norms of Received Pronunciation.

Being abroad or even being in your native country, you have probably faced people who speak the language differently. You both seem to use one and the same language but sound differently. Even unverst language user is always able to feel the difference. But not all speakers know why it happens. This what the question is.

For better understanding, we should distinguish between three notions we are going to operate with: Standard English, Received Pronunciation (RP), an accent and a dialect.

Standard English is a national norm in any English-speaking country. [1] It is generally the official and generally accepted version of the language. Notion of Standard English includes vocabulary, grammar and phonetics. As we are going to deal with phonetic concepts, we should define Received Pronunciation. Received Pronunciation is the accent of Standard English in the United Kingdom. So, from the definition follows that any kind of “deviance” is not a norm already. So now, we proceed to the definitions of so-called deviances.

According to the Oxford Dictionary, accent is a distinctive way of pronouncing a language. Put simply this is the way each of us pronounce a language.

Dialect is a particular form of a language, which is peculiar to a specific region, or social group, which differs in pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar from each other and from Standard English.

The main difference between dialect and accent is that accent unlike dialect refers only to pronunciation. Thus, any educated English speaker can use the vocabulary and grammar of Standard English. However, most of the speakers use their own local words for everyday life. The usage of Received Pronunciation depends on the class rather than on the region.