

The Oval Portrait & The Cop and the Anthem

Comparative analysis

1. Comparing the tones

The tone in both *The Oval Portrait* and *The Cop and the Anthem* is clearly emotional, but the emotions are different.

In *The Oval Portrait* we are concentrated on the setting, the atmosphere and the mood of the castle, which then emphasizes the effect of the portraits story.

And in *The Cop and the Anthem* we mainly follow the story of main hero, feeling for him and his misfortunes.

1. Comparing the tones

These stories have a clear contrast on moods: first is quiet, dark and mysterious, and the second is lively, noisy and humorous. Their tones are created with special language. Where Edgar Poe fills his story with old-fashioned and mannered words, such as "chateau", "dissipate", "quaint", "austere", O'Henry picks some special phrases, which help to depict the main hero:

"Soapy had confidence in himself from the lowest button of his vest upwards"

"On the sidewalk Soapy began to yell drunken gibberish at the top of his harsh voice"

2. Linguistic means that create the story in *The Cop and the Anthem*

1) There are a lot of adjectives, which take the role of the epithets for creating precise images:

- * a street damaged by improvements - по улице, изуродованной ремонтом
- * an unusually quiet corner - особенно тихий угол
- * an old church, quaint and rambling and gabled - старая церковь с остроконечной крышей
- * Through one violet-stained window a soft light glowed - Сквозь фиолетовые стекла одного из ее окон струился мягкий свет
- * The moon was above, lustrous and serene - Взошла луна, безмятежная, светлая
- * a sudden and wonderful change - внезапная и чудесная перемена
- * those solemn but sweet organ notes - торжественные, но сладостные звуки органа
- * the broad face of a policeman - широкое лицо полисмена

2. Linguistic means that create the story in *The Cop and the Anthem*

2) There are emotionally coloured words:

- * Soapy, with disgust in his heart, loafed along, twice unsuccessful - Сопи с омерзением в душе побрел дальше... Вторая неудача.
- * disconsolate, Soapy ceased his unavailing racket - безутешный Сопи прекратил свой никчемный фейерверк
- * hurled the umbrella wrathfully - со злобой швырнул зонтик
- * muttered against the men who wear helmets and carry clubs - осыпая проклятиями людей в шлемах и с дубинками
- * He viewed with swift horror the pit - Он с ужасом увидел бездну

2. Linguistic means that create the story in *The Cop and the Anthem*

3) Morphological features of the text:

- * Lots of abstract nouns (horror, days, desires, hopes)
- * Proper names (the name Soapy –speaking noun, which can consist the author's attitude to the hero)
- * The repetition of the pronoun He and the structure «would do» (modal verb would in this case means insistence, desire):
- * And also in a moment his heart responded thrillingly to this novel mood. An instantaneous and strong impulse moved him to battle with his desperate fate. He would pull himself out of the mire; he would make a man of himself again; he would conquer the evil that had taken possession of him. There was time; he was comparatively young yet; he would resurrect his old eager ambitions...
- * Abbreviation of the verbs:
- * "What are you doin' here?" asked the officer.
- * "Nothin'," said Soapy.

2. Linguistic means that create the story in *The Cop and the Anthem*

4) Stylistic features:

- * Doublets (lustrous and serene - безмятежная и светлая; immaculate thoughts and collars - чистые мысли, и чистые воротнички; a sudden and wonderful change - внезапная и чудесная перемена).
- * Triplets (and then Camembert, a demi-tasse and a cigar - затем сыр, чашечка черного кофе и сигара; he danced, howled, raved - он пустился в пляс на тротуаре, вопил, кривлялся;
- * the policeman twirled his club, turned his back to Soapy and remarked to a citizen - полисмен покрутил свою дубинку, повернулся к скандалисту спиной и заметил прохожему;
- * Soapy stepped inside, secured the umbrella and sauntered off with it slowly - Сопи перешагнул порог, схватил зонтик и медленно двинулся прочь).

2. Linguistic means that create the story in *The Cop and the Anthem*

4) Stylistic features:

- * Anaphora (He would pull himself out of the mire; he would make a man of himself again; he would conquer the evil that had taken possession of him. He would find him tomorrow and ask for the position. He would be somebody in the world).
- * Polysyndeton (And the anthem that the organist played cemented Soapy to the iron fence, for he had known it well in the days when his life contained such things as mothers and roses and ambitions and friends and immaculate thoughts and collars. Here was an old church, quaint and rambling and gabled).

3. The atmosphere in the stories

In these two stories, the atmosphere is different. And this contributes to the plot. In the first story we see the wanderings of Sopi, we feel the hopelessness of the circumstances. In the second story, the atmosphere is different. Description of the majestic castle, its environment. All this creates an atmosphere of mystery, foreboding of something unusual.

4. Is O'Henry's diction forceful?

- * hibernatoria
- * hegira
- * eleemosynary
- * demi-tasse
- * epicurean

* limbo

4. Is O'Henry's diction forceful?

- * "Ah there, Bedelia! Don't you want to come and play in my yard?"
- * "Sure, Mike," she said joyfully, "if you'll blow me to a pail of suds. I'd have spoke to you sooner, but the cop was watching."
- * "'Tis one of them Yale lads celebratin' the goose egg they give to the Hartford College. Noisy; but no harm. We've instructions to lave them be".