

THE GENRE OF CHRISTMAS TALE IN CH. DICKENS' WORK

Christmas is celebrated on December 25. It is a sign of global culture that has attracted the attention of people from all the countries. What Christmas tales have in common is that they all use Christmas as the setting, but their styles and themes may be very different.

The works of British writer Charles Dickens occupy a large proportion of the Christmas tales written in English. Ch. Dickens was a British novelist, journalist, editor, illustrator and social commentator who wrote many popular novels.

“A Christmas Carol” is one of Ch. Dickens’s three Christmas novellas. This work was created in 1843. The other two Christmas tales are “The Chimes” and “Cricket on the Hearth”. “A Christmas Carol” mainly tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a rich but very stingy man because “even beggars don’t want to beg from him”.

On Christmas Eve Scrooge is visited by the ghost of Marley and three other ghosts: the Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present and the Ghost of Yet to Come who show him how his despicable behavior affects the people around him and Scrooge himself because in the vision presented by the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come the near future after his death is marked by neglect and oblivion. Therefore, the main character is shocked and at the end of the story he wakes up and finds that he still has time to change. Finally, readers can see that Scrooge has become a generous and kind man.

The story of “A Christmas Carol” shows Ch. Dickens’s rich imagination. In fact, the author combines the realistic setting with the element of supernatural to create this Christmas tale. He explores the problem of human nature and the change of character from evil to good. He enriches the narrative with Scrooge’s memories and feelings and makes readers believe that human nature is good, that goodness is greater than evil in human heart, and goodness will eventually overcome the evil. Such themes and descriptions fully reflect Ch. Dickens’s vision.

The novella “A Christmas Carol” has a profound humanistic value because it vigorously promotes the Christmas spirit of kindness, forgiveness and fraternity which is loved and respected by readers. The essence of this work is that it enthusiastically eulogizes the best aspects of human nature. The whole Christmas tale is filled with thought-provoking humanistic spirit since Ch. Dickens points out that everyone should be kind to others. He also teaches the readers that good deeds will be rewarded and evil deeds will eventually be punished.

The purpose of ghosts as supernatural characters in this literary work is to challenge Ebenezer Scrooge's pragmatism, educate and shock him, then release his inner feelings and finally help him reform. Ch. Dickens is good at using different literary means and stylistic devices to create a festive, suspenseful and mysterious atmosphere specific for this winter holiday. Thus, his novella "A Christmas Carol" contributes much to the development of Christmas tale as a literary genre.