

SIMILE: SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS IN FICTION TEXT

Simile is an imaginative comparison of two unlike objects belonging to different classes. In a simile two objects are compared on the grounds of similarity of some quality [V.A.Kukharenko: 89].

The paper deals with the semantic and pragmatic function of simile in the novel “To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee, the only novel written by the writer, which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize and made the author famous overnight. The novel is written in the best traditions of such authors as Mark Twain, William Faulkner and others who wrote about American South, and enjoys universal recognition.

The book is interesting in terms of style and composition. Among stylistic devices abundantly used by the author similes contribute to the expressiveness of the novel. They are used to describe the characters’ appearance, behavior and some personal qualities.

Owing to the unpredictability and unexpectedness of the compared unrelated notions referring to different classes, the author created colorful, emotionally charged similes with positive and negative connotation. The likeness of the objects compared is based on one or more aspects. E.g.: “His hair was snow white and stuck to his head like duckfluff” (touch); “Her hand was wide as a bed slat” (shape); “His voice was like the winter wind” (attitude); “She looked and smelled like a peppermint drop” (look, smell), etc.

Thus, the research shows that simile is one of the characteristic features of Harper Lee’s style. It contributes to the expressiveness of the description, to the readers’ deeper understanding of the literary work. It also makes the characters’ qualities more pronounced and add much to the character sketch.