

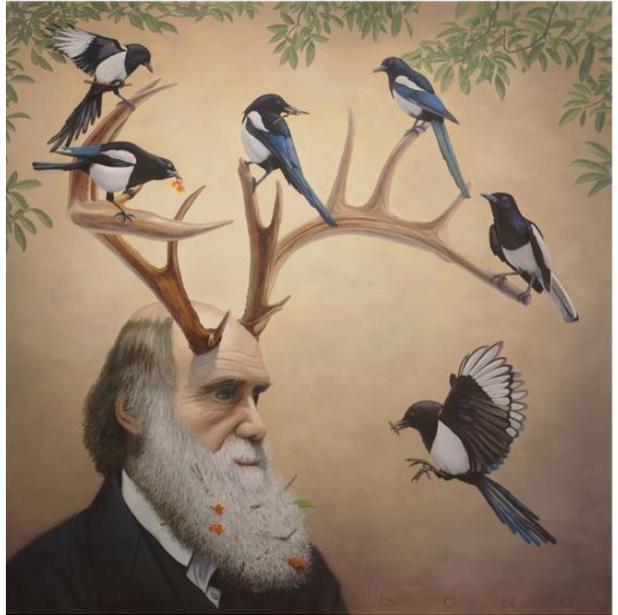
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National identity in literature (on «Rule Britannia» by Daphne du Maurier)

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Abstract

This article is devoted to the image of the internal other in the novel Rule Britannia by English writer of 20th century Daphne du Maurier via comparative qualitative research methods. As a result, basic stereotypes associated with the English Welsh are described in the novel. Mr. Willis has a typical appearance of Welsh. In conclusion, despite the fact that the Welshman Mr. Willis is seen as an ally in the struggle against an external enemy, the question of its activities in the future and the past remains as an open question.

Keywords: Identity, Internal, National, Stereotype, Welshman.

Identidad nacional en la literatura (sobre «Rule Britannia» de Daphne du Maurier)

Resumen

Este artículo está dedicado a la imagen del otro interno en la novela Rule Britannia del escritor inglés del siglo XX Daphne du Maurier a través de métodos comparativos de investigación cualitativa. Como resultado, los estereotipos básicos asociados con el galés inglés se describen en la novela. El Sr. Willis tiene una apariencia típica de Gales. En conclusión, a pesar de que el galés Sr. Willis es visto como un aliado en la lucha contra un enemigo externo, la cuestión de sus actividades en el futuro y el pasado sigue siendo una cuestión abierta.

Palabras clave: identidad, interna, nacional, estereotipo, galés.

1. INTRODUCTION

There is almost no country where you can meet the representatives of only one nationality. Contacting with each other representatives of different nationalities exchange with cultural baggage that allows to create some clear image of the Other. In this case, we are interested in the internal Other. The geographers Corey and Coleman give the following definition of this term:

Here we explore the idea of an internal other, which we define as the intentional construction of a region as different from, perhaps even antithetical to, national norms and values, as an element of nation-building (COREY & COLEMAN, 2012: 18).

That is to say, on the territory of one country a certain group of people is a carrier of the norms as well as the other group being the citizens and having values, traditions, language, etc., become the internal Other. There is another term closed on the meaning to this term as internal orientalism, used by geographer JANSSON (2005) in his work *geography of racism: Internal Orientalism and the Construction of American National Identity in the Film Mississippi Burning*. The United Kingdom is of great interest in this context today. As we all know, it consists of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, respectively, for each the other nations are 3 internal Others. Thus, for the English are the Welsh, Scots and Irish are internal others. The relations among the representatives of these nations have always been uneasy, and they often become the subject of reflection in literature.

2. METHODOLOGY AND HISTORY

In this case, the English-Welsh relationship is in the scope of our interest. Wales is often called the first colony of England because the area was conquered by King Edward I in 1282. In 1536 after the signing of The Laws in Wales Acts, Wales became a full part of the Kingdom of England. Despite the subsequent amplified process of Anglicization, the Welsh were able to defend their national identity and their language and they have continued to sustain a sense of Welsh identity and to revitalize their language. For example, in 1993 the Welsh Language Act was adopted. According to this document, the Welsh Language is equal to English in the public sector of Welsh. And today, according to GRIFFITHS (2007) opinion, there are more than 6 million people in Wales of which 500,000 have fluent Welsh and nearly 66% of them define their national identity as a Welshman as well (KANASHIRO, RIBEIRO, SILVA, MEIRELLES & TERCEIRO, 2018; LOBÃO & PEREIRA, 2016).

The British stereotypes towards Welsh, which were formed in the 12-13th centuries, had the negative connotations. And the territory of Wales was represented as a dark place, both literally and figuratively. First of all, this attitude was associated with the perception of the Welsh language, because the Welsh language belongs to the group of Brythonic Celtic languages, i.e. it has a different origin than the English. There were certain associations the Welsh language is like the language of the peoples of the East. The second reason for the negative attitude towards the Welsh is their religion.

Being Protestants a community of non-conformists did not belong to the Church of England, led by the English monarch, as you know. In this regard, the Welsh are often criticized for maintaining pagan traditions. In addition, the Welsh always had strong patriotic feelings, which also caused the British opposition. Based on these facts, the Englishman had the following image people of Wales: an uneducated, ignorant, having national pride, aggressive (though during the war, this feature was transformed into courage), naive, but at the same time characterized by a great love towards money, therefore Welsh represented as cunning, and people prone to robbery.

In the 15-16th centuries the attitude of English to other British representatives of this nation become less hostile, especially when the Tudors ruled by the country:

Henry Tudor, one of the descendants of Edward III, had the Welsh mother and the French father. So the Tudors as relatives of ancient princes of Wales become the new focus of loyalty for the Welsh nobility (ASHRAPOVA, ZAMALETDINOV & UDERBAEV, 2018: 17).

But the satirical component is amplified. Especially it is reflected brightly in journalism and pamphlets aimed to a wide audience, a strange way of speaking, talkativeness, naivety and gullibility became the subject of ridicule. In the 18-19th centuries, the relation to Wales and the Welshmen is even more positive. The Acts of Union, passed by the English and Scottish Parliaments in 1707, led to the creation of one state – the United Kingdom of Great Britain. In this

respect, there is an appeal to those phenomena, which initially were the Welsh pride: antiquity of their nation, language and religion. Firstly, in 1714 in London, Society of Ancient Britons was formed, that main objective was to help Welsh families living in London. As part of this society were popular sermons, which were published in both English and Welsh. The basic idea of these sermons was unity:

You have now, for near two hundred and fifty Years been governed by Princes of your own Blood, and We have all had the same common Sovereigns. We rejoice to see a People under the same Allegiance with Ourselves praising God in their own Language in Our Capital City. We desire your Happiness equally with our own. And there can be no Happiness where Brethren do not dwell together in Unity (MASHAKOVA & KHABUTDINOVA, 2017: 19).

In the late 19th and early 20th century attitude towards the Welsh becomes ambiguous, which is reflected in the journalism of the time. In this connection, you can select books such as *The Perfidious Welshman* of Arthur Tysilio Johnson, *Wild Wales*; its people, language and scenery of (BORROW, 2010). The first book is written rather in tough satirical nature, and the second one is more friendly. Due to certain circumstances in English literature more attention was paid to the English-Irish and English-Scottish relations, than to English-Welsh relations. In this aspect, the 20th century is probably the most controversial period as the authors are not so strictly adhere to the existing stereotypes and try to present his concept of internal Other, as well as their own treatment of Welsh national character. On the one

hand, it is connected with people's political activity. On the other hand, every writer tries to find the place of his nationality in the world. That is why this period is more interesting for us. In this regard, MAURIER's (1972) *Rule Britannia* becomes an iconic novel.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Daphne du Maurier is a British writer, best known for the story *Birds*, shoot by a cult film director Alfred Hitchcock. *Rule Britannia* is a sort of anti-utopian model, which describes the invasion of United States troops in the territory of the United Kingdom of Great Britain. The United States administration was eager to set up an alliance with the UK government over the heads of the British people. Because of the love of the writer to this place, the action happens in Cornwall. It was the authors' idea of showing the action in the signed and significance place of the country.

Cornwall is the birthplace of the legends of King Arthur, who is a symbol of the union against an external enemy. The heroes of the novel are clearly divided into ours (Mud, her family members, villagers), who defend their freedom, and others (the representatives of the government and the Americans), as supporters of unification of UK and US. In the novel, the Welshman Mr. Willis is the ally of the US. He is called tramp, because no one knows where he came from, and lives in the so-called no man's land. Such union is not accidental, as the Cornish people historically were inhabited Cornwall, as well as the

Welsh, are the descendants of the Britons (ALACA, E. 2018: ALAMDARI & BASHIRI, 2018).

In the novel, Mr. Willis is showed as a typical representative of the nation. Basically, he is given through perception of Mud and her family, who is not the original inhabitants of Cornwall and identified as English in fact. Thus, basic stereotypes associated with the English Welsh are described in the novel. Mr. Willis has a typical appearance of Welsh: bright eyes (The gray eyes glowed at her behind the spectacles), a middle height (He looked less formidable without his cap). But the most important peculiarity is his manner of speaking. Emma emphasizes his accent several times: It was Welsh. The lilt was unmistakable, the upward turn at the finish of a sentence. In addition, the style of speech of Mr. Willis, as he calls it vaudeville language different from others. It seems that he deliberately tries to speak correct English, building quite elaborate proposals, for example, Alas, no wine from the grape, but I have homebrew fermented from potato or Brimful of magic I am, like Prospero in his cell. Love of music started me off, so I could hear opera from Vienna and Milan, etc.

The relation of other characters towards Willis is different. On the one hand, he is one of the most loyal aides for Mud family, devoted almost all the secrets [broken leg Terry helenite, Corporal Wagg killing]. On the other hand, he is characterized as a strange and suspicious person with whom should always be on the alert:

He is a queer old cuss and gives no trouble, murmured Jack Trembath, but with the fix, we are in now ... are you sure? or I neither believe nor disbelieve, answered (ZINNATULLINA & KHABIBULLINA, 2018: 10).

The leitmotif of the image of Mr. Willis in the novel is a children's poem dedicated to Welsh, and today this poem is considered very offensive.

I shall call him Taffy ... Taffy was a Welshman, Taffy was a thief, Taffy came to my place and stole a piece of beef ... Oh yes, he will not mind, he will take it as a compliment (ZHERNOVAYA, 2011: 16).

Indeed, in defiance of the assumption Emma, Willis was not against to such address to him. Thus, the writer could show both the ironic attitude to the existing stereotypes, contrariwise and the best correlation with those stereotypes:

Taffy's a mountebank, so am I. Rogues, vagabonds, strolling players, we are all alike. Politicians too. The original mountebank was the Pied Piper, who first of all led the rats out of town, and then the children. Who follows depends upon the tune (PRESCOTT, 2006: 16).

No-randomness of such statements the end of the novel is confirmed by the fact that Willis is one of the members of the underground movement for liberation, and despite it is not openly shown in the novel we can guess, that he blew up the US navy ship. The main feature the Welsh attributed by the English is the lack of education, ignorance. Mr. Willis had these characteristics. We consider

that he did not get a good education, but he has extensive experience in various professional fields:

He has been all sorts of things in his life. A ship's carpenter, a farm laborer, he has worked in a zoo, in an electric shop-he has got his own radio he made himself (SHAIAKHMETOVA, SHAYAKHMETOVA & MUKHAMETZYANOVA, 2017: 20).

However, in such an emergency situation, which is described in the novel, his practical experience is the most useful. He helped with the first aid, and help on the farm. In addition, the lack of education is offset by his broad-mind. In this regard, Mr. Willis appears to be opposed to the American officer who is trying to show his familiarity with English cultural traditions and attributes Mud role she never played: No, ma'am, answered Colonel Cheeseman. In contrast with him, Willis looks more aware: "I have not been inside a theater these forty years, but I remember her well. She had have been in her prime. A comedy it was; I have forgotten the title (ZHERNOVAYA, 2011: 20)".

Another feature of Welsh is considered naïve and simple-heartedness. At first glance, it seems that Mr. Willis is as a naïve and simple-heartedness person. Throughout his life, he could not achieve anything, living in difficult conditions, dwelling no one's house, leading a modest lifestyle. Even with Mud family, he behaves obediently deliberately, as if recognizing that he is below in the social ladder. But it is not appropriate for the Welsh national character,

because the Welshmen are very proud people. But by the end of the novel, the reader understands that this way of life was just a cover. Another trait of the Welsh is their national pride.

At first, it seems that the Scots and Irish are more actively fighting for recognition, but the Welsh also has experience in riots. No, accidentally there is a parallel between Willis, who is active against an alliance of UK and US and Owen Glendower, the organizer of the uprising against British rule in Wales in the 15th century in the novel: “Do you mean Owen Glendower? Of course. I could not remember his name. Such a wonderful part for Taffy. I want him to read it to me when he wakes. Is it one of the Henry plays? (ZHERNOVAYA, 2011: 11)”

Knowing this rebellion was quite fierce, there was a stereotype about the aggressiveness of the Welsh. Indeed, Mr. Willis is presented as a rather cruel man in the novel. He does not think that it was necessary to get rid of the corpse Corporal Wagg, and he solves the problem rather in an unusual way:

4. SUMMARY

In addition, there is a hint the novel that namely he organizes an explosion on the ship, where almost all the American military is killed. Despite the fact that the inhabitants of Poultry would get rid of the military, but such a cruel way of killing shocked them. Alongside the

image Mr. Willis, the novel includes the general theme of the struggle for freedom. Being in complete isolation from the outside world and just listening to the news transmitted from the central channel, the residents of Cornwall have no idea of what is happening in the country. Only thanks to Willis, who uses a homemade radio, they will know that not only they are unhappy and disagree with the situation. Interestingly, the most active in the fight against the Americans are led in the territory of Wales and Scotland:

I wish, too, to address myself particularly to some of our countrymen who live in the west country and who, because of their place of birth, imagine themselves to be different from the rest of us-and this applies also to the inhabitants of Scotland and Wales, where there have been reports of minor explosions (ASHRAPOVA ET AL., 2018: 27).

It was there Charles and Andrew appeared to be ready to fight against the official authorities and the Queen. In a novel besides the basic stereotypes of Welsh, there are some comical traits. For example, Mr. Willis shows a penchant for alcohol, but not always responsible for the consequences:

The worst had not happened, or if it had the effect had disappeared in the right place and with the plug pulled, but the effort had obviously proved too much for the guest, who was lying full-length on the floor, as Dottie had warned them, mouth open, snoring loudly, his spectacles askew on his nose (JANSSON, 2005: 10).

Or his indiscretion, which is also considered a feature of the national character of the Welsh: “Well, exclaimed Wally Sherman,

once they were away from the clearing, he has a real old character, but Jesus, does he talk! (ASHRAPOVA ET AL., 2018: 10)”

5. CONCLUSIONS

Thus, we see that in the novel *Rule Britannia* by Daphne du Maurier the writer tends to perfume some character features of the Welsh. On the one hand, through the image of Mr. Willis she shows their viability, on the other hand, she represents that the hero uses these patterns, stereotypes to achieve his own aim. And despite the fact that the Welshman Mr. Willis is seen as an ally in the struggle against an external enemy, the question of its activities in the future and the past remains as an open question. And he remains a man full of mysteries, and from whom you can expect anything. As any national writer, who depicts the character in a national way, shows the identity, MAURIER (1972) shows the Welsh character's relationships with Englishmen. And they are complicated because other characters take him of them, but he stays other for them.

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