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***Проектно-исследовательская работа***

**Once Upon A Time**

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**THE FAIRY-TALE WORLD OF “ONCE UPON A TIME” TV SHOW**

“Once Upon A Time”, the American television series ABC in the fantasy genre written by the writers of the series "Lost", Edward Kitsis and Adam Horowitz. The music for the series is written by composer Mark Aishem. The premiere took place on October 23, 2011. The pilot series was marked by positive reviews from critics. And already on November 3, 2011, after the successful ratings of the first two series, ABC extended the series for a full season [1, 2].

Interestingly, this serial has included almost all classical fairy-tale characters, such as Snow White and Evil Queen, Mad Hatter and Cinderella, and others. “Once Upon A Time” tells us a new magic story where all these characters are linked. On the day of the wedding of Snow White and Prince Charming, the Evil Queen comes to the castle and threatens with a terrible curse, which she intends to impose on them. Some time later, pregnant Snow White worries about the threat of a curse and visits Rumpelstiltskinwho tells that the Curse of the Evil Queen will take them all to a terrible place where there will be no happy endings. However, he predicts that the unborn daughter of Snow White, Emma,  
will return on her 28th birthday to save them and start the last battle with the Queen. Following the Blue Fairy’s advice, Geppettoand Pinocchio make a wardrobe made of magical wood that will allow one person to escape the curse of the Queen. On that day, Snow White gives birth to a daughter, and the curse of the Evil Queen begins to act. Prince Charming manages to save the newborn daughter by placing it into a magic wardrobe, but the Queen's henchmen mortally wound him. The wicked Queen triumphs when Prince Charming is dying in the arms of Snow White, and the curse takes them to the "terrible place." [2]

Analyzing the pre-history of the events, we can state that the creators of this fairy-tale did enormous work on collecting miscellaneous characters from any fairy-tale possibly known to an average American viewer, as we understand it. The characters have similar stories but the new element in this modern fairy-tale is that all these familiar plots are intertwined into one. At the same time, many fairy-tale characters only seem to remain the same. In fact, they are given new characteristics which they did not possess in the original story. Now we do not imply the development of the plot in the modern times which is only the continuation of the tale after the original and they lived “happily ever after”. Here we mean that some of the heroes have different qualities, for instance, Cinderella is not an absolutely kind-hearted and hard-working girl[1] but is a self-conscious young lady who is afraid of responsibilities. Some heroes such as Rumpelstiltskin or Evil Queen who represent the evil, by the way, seem to retain their leading characteristics [12].

To continue the story, after the curse took effect, imagine the contemporary world, Boston and the lone Emma Swan who works as a bail bondsman. When Emma blows the candle on the cupcake in honor of her 28th birthday and makes a wish, a 10-year-old Henry appears on her doorstep and tells her that he is her son, whom she gave up for adoption ten years ago. Not wanting to have a relationship with the boy, Emma agrees to take him back to his official home in Storybrooke, Maine. On the way, Henry shows her a large book of fairy tales, insisting that all the stories in it are real. When they arrive in Storybrooke, Henry tells her that everyone in the city is really the characters of fairy tales, transferred to this world by the curse of the Evil Queen because of which they do not remember who they really are. Henry believes that his psychotherapist Archie Hopper is actually Jiminy Cricket, and his schoolteacher Mary Margaret Blanchard is Snow White. He claims that the time in Storybrooke is frozen (the city clock is always showing 8:15), and people cannot leave the town because bad things happen then, and this curse can only be destroyed by Emma. Skeptical Emma returns Henry to his foster mother, the Mayor, or Regina Mills, who is actually the Evil Queen. Soon Henry runs awayagain, Emma finds him and decides to stay in Storybrooke for a while. This decision causes the frozen arrows of the city clock to start moving again. This is the point where the new fairy-tale begins to develop and disclose the characters’ roles and the truth about the world, be that fairy-tale world or ours.

To sum up, there are two parts of the story that can be defined as “the fairy-tale world before the curse” and “the fairy-tale world after the curse.” The former resembles a fantasy novel where all characters who we possibly could remember from childhood are linked into one chapter of a book. It is necessary to raise a question here about which characters exactly and how many of them we are introduced to “before the curse.” The latter part of the story, which we have called “after the curse”, is an absolutely new fairy-tale where the same heroes acquire new qualities and even can disclose their characters in an unexpected way. We dare say this part is a brilliant source of modern spoken American language. The former part is relevant for this research as it is a source of all possible fairy-tale characters, and it is more than simply interesting to learn their names in English and compare their stories to the original ones and those we were told in childhood. This interest made us do a survey among the students of the ninth-grade about the characters from different fairy-tales most of which are well-known in our culture, too.

**The analysis of the survey results**

To learn how many ninth-grade students know fairy tales and their characters in English, the following survey was done. 84 students were asked to translate the names of five characters into Russian and to write the titles of the original fairy-talesand the authors. We had chosen, as we think, five most famous characters from different fairy-tales. The characters were Snow White, Mad Hatter, Little Red Riding Hood, Evil Queen, and Rumpelstiltskin. We estimated how many teenagers translated the characters’ names correctly, incorrectly, and how many did not translate them at all. As it can be seen below, the results leave much to be desired.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Characters | Correct translation (%) | Incorrect translation (%) | No translation  (%) |
| Snow White | 70 | 25 | 5 |
| Mad Hatter | 60 | 12 | 28 |
| Little Red Riding Hood | 62 | 17 | 21 |
| Evil Queen | 65 | 7 | 28 |
| Rumpelstiltskin | 39 | 23 | 38 |

*Statistics of the English-Russian translation of the fairy-tale characters’ names.*

Thus, Snow White was translated correctly by 70%, incorrectly by 25%, and was not translated by 5%. Mad Hatter was translated correctly by 60%, incorrectly by 12%, and was not translated by 28%. Little Red Riding Hoodwas translated correctly by 62%, incorrectly by 17%, and was not translated by 21%. Evil Queen was translated correctly by 65%, incorrectly by 7%, and was not translated by 28%. Rumpelstiltskinwas translated correctly by 39%, incorrectly by 23%, and was not translated by 38%.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Characters | The fairy-tales | The Authors |
| Snow White | Snow White and the seven dwarfs | German Folk tale  (collected by the Brothers Grimm) |
| Mad Hatter | Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland | Lewis Carroll (Charles Lutwidge Dodgson’s pseudonym) |
| Little Red Riding Hood | Little Red Riding Hood | European Folk tale (Charles Perrault and the Brothers Grimm) |
| Evil Queen | Snow White, or Snow White and the seven dwarfs | German Folk tale  (collected by the Brothers Grimm) |
| Rumpelstiltskin | Rumpelstiltskin | European Folk tale (written down by the Brothers Grimm) |

*The origin of the fairy-tales. [1, 8, 10, 12]*

As for the tales, only 31% of the respondents wrote the fairy-tale Snow White is from. Alice in Wonderland was given as the Mad Hatter fairy tale by 20%, the same as Little Red Riding Hood. The least percentage was earned by Evil Queen (5%)and Rumpelstiltskin (0,8%). In addition, we saw that 51% people had known no tales. 51% people wrote no author. 50% gave no tales and no author. The students wrote that Rumpelstiltskin was from Shrek so they know movies better than the original stories and books which proves the topicality of this research again.

To conclude, we can say that the modern students do not know the fairy-tales well, to say nothing of their authors. That is how our first hypothesis is proved. Now we should try to offer the students some really catching material which will fill the gaps in their knowledge and be interesting and motivating for them, at the same time. For this purpose to be achieved, we decided to create a special booklet.

**LIST OF RESOURCES**

1. Folktales and Fairy Tales: Traditions and Texts from around the World, 2nd Edition [4 volumes]: Traditions and Texts from around the World. 2016.
2. Once Upon A Time: Behind the Magic - Companion to the Hit TV Show. Neil Edwards,Natalie Clubb
3. The Encyclopedia of Television, Cable, and Video. R.M. Reed,M.K. Reed
4. <http://abc.go.com/shows/once-upon-a-time/about-the-show>
5. <https://www.emmys.com/shows/once-upon-time>
6. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_nominations_received_by_Once_Upon_a_Time>
7. <https://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_393384_en.pdf>
8. <https://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/course/fairy-tales-their-histories-and-hidden-meanings>
9. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1843230/awards>
10. <https://www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/curriculum/literacy/lit_site/html/fiction/fairytale2/fairytale.htm>
11. <https://oncepodcast.com/forums/topic/once-upon-a-time-nominated-for-kids-choice-awards/>
12. <https://www.grimmstories.com/en/grimm_fairy-tales/rumpelstiltskin>