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ANALYSIS OF PASTICHE IN THE NOVEL "THE LIGHTNING THIEF" BY RICK RIORDAN

Abstract: This article deals with the analysis of pastiche in literature, particularly in "The Lightning Thief" by American author Rick Riordan. The research identifies pastiche as a term, which is applied to a literary work that is a broad mixture of things – such as themes, concepts, and characters – imitated from different literary works. The investigation reveals several examples of pastiche, which means that American author Rick Riordan, did not only use the existed mythological gods and demigods in his novel, but also applied their features to modern heroes which becomes mixture of old and modern characters. The main hero Persy Jackson is the mixture of modern hero with the features of Poseidon who was the Sea God in Greek mythology. Pastiche is used not only in the descriptions if characteristics, but also in the description of places and concepts. Pastiche makes author create new plot not only with the help of the existed heroes, but also with the new personages as well as to make the literary work more interesting.

Key words: pentalogy, pastiche, mythology, entourage.
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Introduction

In the modern English literary criticism, works created on the basis of pastiche are important, while such works stand out among others for their features and meaning. But a pentalogy "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" by Rick Riordan can serve as a clear example of this.

First of all, if to give a definition to the word pastiche, this word comes from the Italian pasticcio, which means "paste" and it's often used in such figurative senses as "mixed" or "mixture". The word pastiche was first used as a term in France in the 17th century, when had a meaning of "opera potpourri". However, in the World Literature, the first interpretation to pastiche given in the book of the well-known French philosopher and writer D. Diderot "Fundamentals of literary criticism" published in 1767 as follows: "Pastiche in literary criticism is a parody of a work of art author's style» [1,604c]

According to the interpretation by English writer P.Berry, pastiche is a mixture of existing theme, concept or character in some works with new ones. [2.67 c]. Also according to the Russian literary criticist E.E.Sviridova, in literary criticism, the term pastiche is understood as creation of new plot work by mixing styles, characters, entourage of another authors. In contrast with stylization, pastiche requires a writer to develop new stories with the help of existing characters and to add additional some new characters.[3,171c]

Based on the above definitions, it can be concluded that the pastiche is that these existing characters are embodied in modern works through an imitative style, and that their characteristic features and aspects are reflected in modern characters. American writer Rick Riordan's "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" pentalogy is a case in point. Before presenting the analysis of the past in this collection of fantastic novels, the following information about the work can be given.

Discussion.

If we give description to "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" pentalogy, the protagonist of the work is Percy from Greek mythology, and the collection of novels is rich in modern and fantastic adventures. The famous Irish writer Eoin Colfer considers this novel to be a fantastic mix of myth and modernity. Pentalogy consists of such novels as "The Lightning Thief", "The Sea of Monsters", "The Titan's Curse", "The Battle of the Labyrinth" and "The Last Olympian', it has gained great popularity among readers due to its interesting plot and skillful depiction of extraordinary events.

The first novel in "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" pentalogy was called "The Lightning Thief". The protagonist, a young Percy Jackson, has a lot of adventures in a summer camp for Greek demigods. The modern daily life of the Greek demigods is also reflected in clear details.

As for the history of the creation of Percy Jackson's protagonist, it is related to Rick Riordan's storytelling for his son, Haley Riordan. In the spring of 2002, when Rick's son was diagnosed with a very serious illness - HIV and dyslexia - his son was in second grade and had a keen interest in Greek mythology, so he always wanted his father to tell him stories from Greek mythology before bed. But Rick had no idea about it. Then his son offered to tell modern stories with the participation of mythological heroes. This, in turn, led to the creation of the novel's character, Percy Jackson. Then Haley asked his father to collect all the stories and create a work. Rick did his best because he didn't want to refuse his sick son. He got to work with different ideas from his pupils and soon got the expected result.

The author of the work, Riordan, points out, "Percy is a character created based on my son's real-life struggle, and they are very similar in age and character, they are the same hero". Percy's sense of humor is derived from some of Rick's pupils. [4,31c]

Pentalogy's first novel, "The Lightning Thief", is a novel with sharp plots that depicts Percy's first adventures. The chronotope of the work is taken from New York City, USA and the XXI century. The protagonist Percy is placed in a special boarding school due to dyslexia, and great adventures begin here. The plot of the play also depicts the protagonist's journey across America in search of a light arrow belonging to the god Zeus.

Since this work is based on the past, we will analyze a few obvious examples in it. The author depicts the image of the Greek demigod in the character of the modern character Percy and creates him as the son of the sea god Poseidon, derived from Greek mythology. For example, Percy went to the museum with his classmates and, unbeknownst to him, he used a wave to pull the water out of the fountain and throw Nancy Bobfit, classmate he hated, into the fountain. At the beginning of the play, Percy still doesn't know that he has supernatural powers. In the play, this plot is described as follows:

"I was about to unwrap my sandwich when Nancy Bobofit appeared in front of me with her ugly friends…"Oops." She grinned at me with her crooked teeth.

I tried to stay cool. But I was so mad my mind went blank. A wave roared in my ears.

I don't remember touching her, but the next thing I knew, Nancy was sitting on her butt in the fountain, screaming, "Percy pushed me!"

Some of the kids were whispering:

-Did you see?

- The water – like it grabbed her"[5,6c]

In this plot, the pastiche is obvious, that is, Percy said: "I don't remember touching her with my hand, but I knew she was sitting in the fountain and crying, "Percy pushed me", that is, Percy unknowingly directs the water in the fountain, and the water drops Nancy into the fountain. From the very beginning of the work, the author informs the reader that the main character has supernatural powers and that this power was given to him because he is the son of the god of the sea. Percy has not only mysterious powers, but also strange, inhuman qualities. This can be seen in the following example, when Percy was seriously injured and fell into the water and lost his injuries:

"… My chest felt warm and wet, and I knew I was badly cut.

"You're wounded," Annabeth told me. "Quick, Percy, get in the water." I stepped back into the creek, the whole camp gathering around me.

Instantly, I felt better. I could feel the cuts on my chest closing up…."

In this part of the work, a clear example of pastiche is given, another of Percy's strengths is that he becomes strong in the water, and his injury heals completely. This quality was passed down to him from his father Poseidon, and Poseidon is described in the work as follows:

"My father?" I asked, completely bewildered.

"Poseidon," said Chiron. "Earthshaker, Stormbringer, Father of Horses. Hail, Perseus Jackson, Son of the Sea God."

"Mening otam? - deb so'radim, o'yga tolib.

Poseidon is portrayed by Chiron as an Earthshaker, a Stormbringer, and the Father of Horses. Gods such as Zeus, Athena, and Hades are also depicted in this work. It should be noted that the pastiche is not only seen in the fact that the character of the existing gods in Greek mythology is revived in modern heroes, but also in the fact that the author creates the work in a more interesting and unusual style, involving real Greek gods in modern work.

In the work, the author creates not only the existing gods in Greek and Roman mythology, but also their children, and demonstrates the characteristics of gods and demigods in their children. The process is illustrated in the following example:

Athena had made an alliance with Apollo and Hermes, the two biggest cabins…

Ares had allied themselves with everybody else: Dionysus, Demeter, Aphrodite, and Hephaestus. From what I'd seen, Dionysus's kids were actually good athletes, but there were only two of them. Demeter's kids had the edge with nature skills and outdoor stuff but they weren't very aggressive. Aphrodite's sons and daughters I wasn't too worried about. They mostly sat out every activity and checked their reflections in the lake and did their hair and gossiped. Hephaestus's kids weren't pretty, and there were only four of them, but they were big and burly from working in the metal shop all day. That, of course, left Ares's cabin: a dozen of the biggest, ugliest, meanest kids on Long Island, or anywhere else on the planet.

The peculiarity of this plot is that along with the gods of myth, new characters were created - the children of the gods. For example, Athena, the god of war and victory and intelligence, made an alliance with Apollon, the sun god, and Hermes, the god of trade. Ares, the son of Zeus and Gera, the god of ruthless war, is allied with Dionysus, the god of wine, Demetria, the god of fruit and agriculture, Aphrodite, the god of love and beauty, and Hephaestus, the god of fire and blacksmithing. Some of their children were like their fathers or mothers, while others had completely opposite qualities. Take, for example, the children of Hephaestus, who are shown to be as strong as their father because they work in the iron shop from morning till night, or the children of Aphrodite, who, like their mothers, weave for themselves and focus only on beauty. But the children of Dionysus - healthy athletes - were not like their fathers, and their fathers, on the contrary, were drunk under the influence of wine, forgot everything and were only entertained. So, the above passage is a clear example of pastiche. Here is another example of Percy's battle with Minotaur, a Greek mythological bull with a bull's head and a human body:

Another example can be seen in this plot, where an algebra teacher, Mrs. Dodds, invites Percy into the museum to "talk". Suddenly the teacher turns into a furia named Alecto and is thrown at Percy, but Percy destroys him with the help of boarding school teacher Mr. Braner. In this plot, the algebra teacher has a witch of oppression and evil between the Greek gods - a witch, and is portrayed in the work as follows:

"Then the weirdest thing happened. Her eyes began to glow like barbecue coals. Her fingers stretched, turning into talons. Her jacket melted into large, leathery wings. She wasn't human. She was a shriveled hag with bat wings and claws and a mouth full of yellow fangs, and she was about to slice me to ribbons".

From the image above, it can be seen that the work depicts a non-human, that is, mythological, character of a modern female character. For example, "claws and bat wings" - characters with long claws and wings - are very common in Greek mythology. A similar example is the picture of "Aunt Em" on page 187 of the book. First she is depicted in a very beautiful and simple oriental women's dress, and then as a creature with long nails:

"Then the door creaked open, and standing in front of us was a tall Middle Eastern woman-at least, I assumed she was Middle Eastern, because she wore a long black gown that covered everything but her hands, and her head was completely veiled. Her eyes glinted behind a curtain of black gauze, but that was about all I could make out. Her coffee-colored hands looked old, but well-manicured and elegant, so I imagined she was a grandmother who had once been a beautiful lady…

Then I heard a strange, rasping sound above me. My eyes rose to Aunty Em's hands, which had turned gnarled and warty, with sharp bronze talons for fingernails.

I couldn't move. I stared at Aunty Em's gnarled claws…."

In both of the above plots, modern female characters try to destroy Percy by becoming a negative hero during the adventure. Negative characters are embodied in an unusual way that is common in mythology. This is another clear sign of the use of pastiche.

Another example is the "magic sword", an object found in myths, and a plot depicting the extraordinary death of its protagonists:

"Then things got even stranger.

Mr. Brunner, who'd been out in front of the museum a minute before, wheeled his chair into the doorway of the gallery, holding a pen in his hand.

"What ho, Percy!" he shouted, and tossed the pen through the air.

Mrs. Dodds lunged at me.

With a yelp, I dodged and felt talons slash the air next to my ear. I snatched the ballpoint pen out of the air, but when it hit my hand, it wasn't a pen anymore. It was a sword-Mr. Brunner's bronze sword, which he always used on tournament day.

My knees were jelly. My hands were shaking so bad I almost dropped the sword.

She snarled, "Die, honey!"

And she flew straight at me.

Absolute terror ran through my body. I did the only thing that came naturally: I swung the sword. The metal blade hit her shoulder and passed clean through her body as if she were made of water. Hisss!

Mrs. Dodds was a sand castle in a power fan. She exploded into yellow powder, vaporized on the spot, leaving nothing but the smell of sulfur and a dying screech and a chill of evil in the air, as if those two glowing red eyes were still watching me."

So, in this plot, the author skillfully uses the weapon - the sword, which existed in ancient myths in modern play. The protagonist uses a magic sword to kill the negative hero, the vulture Furia, and she turns

into a fine powder and disappears. There are many such plots in the myths, but in this play the author turned a modern object - a ballpoint pen into a magic sword, that is, the exchange of modern and mythological objects made the plot more interesting. So we can agree that pastiche is expressed not only through characters but also through objects.

The pastiche is also seen in the description of places - we will see the ancient scene in the following passage from page 65 of the book "The Lightning Thief", a masterful depiction of the modern scene:

"The landscape was dotted with buildings that looked like ancient Greek architecture-an open-air pavilion, an amphitheater, a circular arena – except that they all looked brand new, their white marble columns sparkling in the sun. In a nearby sandpit, a dozen high school-age kids and satyrs played volleyball. Others rode horses down a wooded trail, and, unless I was hallucinating, some of their horses had wings."

As can be seen from the passage, the image of the place is skillfully written with interesting details. Everything, from arena, amphitheater in ancient Greece to the winged horses was used, but the only difference in the work was that it was all new, that is, all the details were imitated, there is also a non-specific look to details.

Conclusion.

In short, Rick Riordan's first novel of the pentalogy, "Jack Percy and the Olympians", "The Lightning Thief", uses pastiche, a modern interpretation of characters from ancient Greek mythology. In addition, mythological heroes already existed in Greek myths, but Rick Riordan not only used these heroes in his works in an imitative style, but also used the qualities of the ancient Greek gods to create new characters and embellish details on the chronotope.

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