

Portrait of City in Elizabeth Gaskell Novels

PhD, Mukhammedova Khulkar¹

Abstract: In our article the approaches about similarities of portrait of city created in the novels written by Victorian women writers in different years and their inner attitudes shown are demonstrated similar tendencies, which are observed in social function of objects. Victorian women writers expressed portrait of city differently. Majority of them tried to show real face of Great Britain of XIX century.

Key words: Victorian, portrait, city, age, novel, feature, symbol.

Victorian age considered one of the main important period in history of English literature. In this age created type of social novel by Charles Dickens. Depend on social novel other women writers developed this type of novel. XIX century based on social novel appeared industrial novel, governess novel, conditional novel, sensation novel and etc. In history of English literature of XIX century sisters Bronte, Elizabeth Gaskell, George Eliot, Margaret Oliphant was successful writers. Elizabeth Gaskell brought image of city where women, girls worked as workers of factories. She developed type of social novel in English literature. In her novels she described main elements of industrial Great Britain. In Victorian age industry was well developed in Great Britain and was given name home of industry in the world. Industry where well developed made a great impact in peoples life.

From this we can identify portrait of city and its features which were chosen by the women writers. The most important thing is that the great ideology of the writer, the clarity of the specific features of the images of city described in relation to their places. Besides it critic S. Zlotnick commented that portrait of city forms the nuclear of the writer's literary system [10. –P.62].

In our point of view using pictures of city in novels helps us widely analyse features of writer's each portrait of city that were created in various periods of the writer's life. From typological point of view the inner logic of characterization of particular writers thinking is used in the study of portraits of city in literature and it is effectively applied by many critics.

J. Spencer by considering that picture of industry in Elizabeth Gaskell's novels are "wise enough to achieve", stated that "describing portrait of city is the deep feeling in women writers heart" and with this heart we should see the world[6. –P. 103]. The social psychology and reality of portrait of cities are expressed with the help of the writer's ideology and the main features of writer's ideology are the love of humanity.

Elizabeth Gaskell was one of the woman writers who lived in Victorian age. In her novels we can see just a different portrait of city in Great Britain. Majority of them illustrated face of industrial country. In "Mary Barton" the city of Manchester focused on impact of making interest vivid role of working class uneducated people of Manchester. Firstly Gaskell tried to show the beauty of city by a nature. Then she moved slowly the dark sights of Manchester.

That's why another critic P.Stoneman commented that city of Manchester for Gaskell is not only a mother town but one of important and dearest "place" in people life [7.-P.69]. The image of city in literature gives an opportunity for a writer to fulfill her, her literary method: describing life fully, showing the lacks of society, and creating typical characters, teaching people kindness and fairness. Elizabeth Gaskell the world of woman is big and precious and S. Stefan considers that the writer in her novels showed "the English patience".

By using "often repeated portrait of city from "Mary Marton" till "Cranford" or even "Sylvia's Lovers" and making variations of particular place" we can see observe in Elizabeth Gaskell several types of industrial part of Great Britain that have main features of industry.

Expressing of portrait of city like Manchester or Cranford is based on existing modification and transformation that is observed in Gaskell's works. The images of cities are not seen as the chain linked with other though they do not belong to the same group; they are seen in the attitudes between particular colors that are different in specters according to its pictures.

Portrait of city Elizabeth Gaskell showed in her two novels "Mary Barton" and "North and South". Some scholars considered these two novels as Manchester novels. Gaskell referred to condition of industry and great impact of industry in people's life. By industry she showed hard life of ordinary people and social problems between two classes. In "Mary Barton" working class of uneducated people of Manchester despite of hard life they believed future of Manchester. Manchester was a future or even a home town who cannot leave home. Gaskell started to write her novel as a "memory of painful scenes which would force themselves upon my remembrance" [8. –P. 74]. The main character of novel is Mary

¹ Assistant professor, Uzbekistan state world Languages University

Barton. She belonged to working class. She also described portrait of city “that land whose scenes are unspeakable terrors, are hidden mysteries, are priceless treasures to one alone, –that land where alone I may see” [4. –P. 316].

The portrait of city gives us possibility to open deeply world of writer. Through the characters writer tried to show us real face of Victorian age and its culture. Many scholars observed Elizabeth Gaskell’s novels. The approach is observable in the work of the western scholar A. Unsworth’s “Elizabeth Gaskell an independent woman”. In her works researcher tries to analyze the place through women character from different perspectives [9. –P. 48]. We can see than the writer deeply investigated the world of women during the mid-Victorian period.

Elizabeth Gaskell not only brings more women on to her stage in the novels, however: protagonist’s world and whole series of major female characters plays a dominant role in the story’s development. Many of the central concerns of the novels, moreover, relate to dangers, frustrations and humiliations experienced by women in the male orientated world of mid-Victorian England.

In “North and South” Gaskell makes sensitive woman Margaret, and the writer makes us to feel the painfulness of Margaret’s position as a daughter in the house of clerk, and author wants us to feel also the degradation of Mrs. Thornton, a sister of Mr. Thornton who must catch a rich husband to ensure her social survival.

In Betsy’s story, with its mingled pathos, dramatizes the plight of a motherless middle-class girl whose expensive “education” trains her for a purely decorative.

Critical discourses on Gaskell 1970-1980 followed us to observe the importance of women question in Gaskell novels. Gaskell’s all novels made a representation of women characters. Her main characters are women. The problem described through women characters. Her male characters are not too active like women. In “Cranford” the writer described the small town where typical English housekeepers made a gossip. By the women discussions we can see impact of industry in Cranford. Cranford is a small town. Elizabeth Gaskell spends her some years in her childhood in this city. Some character of women she brought from real life. M. Dobie noted the ways in which the post-heritage genre uses the past to explore current controversial issues [3.-P. 140].

The portrait of city was well developed in her all novels. She used bright colors and expressions in pictures of Manchester, Cranford, Helstone and etc. In “North and South” the portrait of city is visible than other works of Gaskell. The main character Margaret gives clearly pictures of North and South. Her impression about North never changed. According to her opinion she cannot understand people who live in North. Ch. Alison noted that Gaskell developed figure of Mary Barton in Margaret [1.-P.48]. Margaret was well educated girl. M.Dodsworth supported the idea of Ch. Alison. According to M. Dodsworth Margaret was a main protagonist who can help to workers and masters and solve their problem peacefully [2.-P. 120]. She was good listener. H. Guest commented that character of Margaret was exaggerated. In mid-Victorian age woman cannot be in a high state of society [5. –P. 78].

In Conclusion we can say that mid-Victorian industrial face of Great Britain is clearly described Elizabeth Gaskell novels. The portrait of city is given through working class people. Through their life we observed social problems and their culture.

The List of used literature

1. Alison Ch. Elizabeth Gaskell: Mary Barton and North and South. Critical Guides. Cambridge: Icon, 1999. – 430 p.
2. Dodsworth M. Introduction to North and South. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1970, -210 p.
3. Dobie M. Gender and the Heritage Genre. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2003. -247 p.
4. Gaskell E. Mary Barton. Oxford: World’s Classics 1998. -450 p.
5. Harriet G. The Deep Romance of Manchester: Gaskell’s Mary Barton. The Regional Novel in Britain and Ireland, 1800–1990. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998. -280 p.
6. Spencer J. Elizabeth Gaskell. Basingstoke: Macmillan 1993. -210 p.
7. Stoneman P. Elizabeth Gaskell. Brighton: Harvester 1987. -140 p.
8. The Letters of Mrs. Gaskell, ed. J. A. V. Chapple and Arthur Pollard Manchester: Mandolin, 1997 –410 p.
9. Unsworth A. Elizabeth Gaskell: an independent woman. London: Minerva 1996. - 320 p.
10. Zlotnick S. Women, Writing, and the Industrial Revolution. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998. –122 p.