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### **Stylistic Peculiarities of Shakespearean Comedies**

One of the most important categories of aesthetic understanding of a literary work is a category of comic. Different scientists give different definitions of the term. A German philosopher Georg Hegel gave the following definition: «Generally the category of comic rests on the contradictory contrasts between its goals and content, on the one hand, and the random nature of subjectivity and external circumstances on the other hand» [1]. It is necessary to emphasize the origin of the word «comic». It comes from the Greek language and has the meaning «comic, funny». Aristotle in his work «Rhetoric» mentioned the verb «κωμάζω» which has a meaning «to make a merry procession (in honor of Dionysus, other gods or without religious purpose), to walk in a cheerful and noisy crowd around the city with music, singing, dancing» [2]. The meaning of this term gives a reason to believe that the category of comic has a significant role in literature reducing the emotional and psychological tension.

The category of comic can be found in various genres such as drama, tragedy and so on. Researchers from different scientific fields are still interested in the category of comic as a part of such a genre as comedy.

According to the dictionary of literary terms, a comedy itself is a type of drama based on the ridicule of social and human imperfection [3]. The researchers distinguish between «comedies-provisions» when the preference is given to events; «comedies-mores» with a vivid image of social mores; satirical comedies [3]. Among the many writers and playwrights who wrote comedies, William Shakespeare occupies a special place.

The comedies of William Shakespeare are an exceptional phenomenon in the history of this genre. In fact, it stands apart from the main path of development of the world comedy tradition. The world comedy has been defined as a satirical one. It exposes to shame and ridicule violations of social norms, deviations from the ideal. Satirical comedy occurs when social contradictions are particularly obvious. Shakespearean comedies are deeply controversial. His works were written during the rapid rise of English humanism. It was the most optimistic period in the history of the English Renaissance, a time of great changes and hopes, when the foundations of feudalism began to collapse, when the Renaissance freedom of the individual was affirmed.

Shakespearean plays which are usually classified as a comedy are:

- “The Merchant of Venice”;
- “Twelfth Night”;
- “All's Well That Ends Well”;
- “The Winter's Tale”;
- “A Midsummer Night's Dream”;
- “Measure for Measure”;
- “Much Ado About Nothing” and some other works.

It is said that Shakespearean comedies are quite identifiable. They share some certain characteristics. For example, the plots of Shakespeare comedies have more twists and turns than his tragedies and histories. Although the plots are convoluted, they do follow similar patterns. For example, the climax of the play always occurs in the third act. Evidently, Shakespearean comedies are full of clever wordplay, metaphors, and insults.

One of the greatest Shakespearean comedies is «The Merchant of Venice» which was considered to be a romantic comedy but now is most remembered for its dramatic scenes. Besides it is notable for some speeches of the main characters where the playwright used specific literary devices. For instance in Portia's famous speech about mercy, given when she was disguised as a male lawyer, she used a metaphor, comparing mercy to a gentle rain that is undeserved but blesses and nurtures what it falls

upon. Most of all William Shakespeare used dramatic irony when he wanted to underline some facts which the readers know but the characters of the comedy do not.

«All that glisters is not gold,  
Often have you heard that told;  
Many a man his life hath sold  
But my outside to behold:  
Gilded tombs do worms infold» [4]

In this quote the playwright uses alliteration, repeating the consonant «g» to emphasize the contrast between glisters and gold and thus the contrast between outer show (glisters) and real worth (gold). The passage also has rhyme which helps us to highlight the important thematic point that money isn't everything.

The comedy has also educational value and can be used during the process of teaching English. Some student's books have such a component as a book for reading. One of the most famous teaching complexes in Russia «Spotlight» includes this comedy and provides an adapted version of it. This material can be used as a part of home reading when students are supposed to be ready to do tasks and exercises after the text. It can help a teacher to find out the depth of understanding the context. One of the interesting ways to include this comedy into the educational process is the performance on the stage where all the students can be involved.

Thus, we can talk about the universality of Shakespeare's comedies for both literary critics and foreign language teachers.

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