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The image of a woman in English and Russian proverbs

Proverbs are a bright and attractive genre of folklore. A proverb is not just a phrase, it expresses the opinion of people, contains people's assessment of reality, the world around us, the observation and experience of people being a reflection of the national mentality.

The woman has always played an enormous role in the life of any society, so there is an increasing interest in her image in such an ancient genre of folklore as proverbs and sayings. So, let's examine the difference and similarities about women in English and Russian proverbs.

When studying English proverbs and sayings, it was noticed that, basically, they talk about a woman in general, but there are also small groups of proverbs about a wife, a widow, a daughter and a mother. A small number of proverbs and sayings that refer to a woman occupying a certain place in the family suggest that in English proverbs and sayings no special attention is paid to kinship and age relations in the family.

But in Russian, the situation is different. It contains both statements about a woman in a general sense as well as about her specific role in the family and society. There are large groups of proverbs about a grandmother, a maiden, a wife, a widow, a mother, and a few about a sister, a daughter, a daughter-in-law, a mother-in-law, a sister-in-law and a wise woman. [3]

In proverbs, names of women, such as mother, daughter, sister, there are some differences when comparing them. Russian proverbs are patriotic, in English they relate to life experience and moral concepts such as loyalty, devotion, wisdom, pride, contempt, etc.

Examples:

Родная сторона – мать, чужая – мачеха.

Родина – мать, умей за неё постоять.[2]

Truth is God's daughter. [1]

Experience is the mother of wisdom.

Be your own woman
(approving) to act or think independently, not following others or being ordered
Woman of the people
(especially of a politician) a man/woman who understands and supports ordinary people

The proverbs and sayings of each nation reflect the history of the development of these people, landscapes, climate, ancient religious beliefs, traditions, customs, moral standards, holidays and folk beliefs. Proverbs carry national peculiarities, and therefore some of them have no analogues in another language.

Examples:

Женские умы, что татарские сумы.(переметны) The comparison is taken from the times of the Tatar yoke, about the features of the Tatar saddlebags. This speaks of the inconstancy of women in their decisions. [2]

Arthur couldn't tame women's tongue. It says here that even King Arthur had no power to tame the female language. Such proverbs reflect the history of the country.

Although English and Russian proverbs have many differences, they also have a lot in common. It can be explained by universal human values. You can find English proverbs with the same meaning to Russian proverbs. Some of them may almost completely coincide.

Examples:

Материнская ласка конца не знает.

A mother's love never ages.

Дочку сватать – за матушкой волочиться.

He that would the daughter win must with the mother first begin.

Нет такого дружка, как родная мать.

A man's mother is the other God.

За бабой почитай последнее слово. С бабой не сговоришь. Бабу не переговоришь.

Women will have the last word. Women are great talkers.

У бабы волос долог, а ум короток.

Women have long hair and short brains.

Без жены – как без шапки. [4]

Women are necessary evils. [1]

Thus, it can be stated that the pictures of the world of the Russian and English languages have certain differences and similarities. This is due to the mental-cultural and national-historical features of development, recorded in the language and consciousness of these peoples, as well as the traditional distribution of gender roles in society and ideas about femininity that dominate in this society.

Литература

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