

ФИЛОСОФСКИЕ ВЗГЛЯДЫ Д.РОУЛИНГ (НА ПРИМЕРЕ КНИГ О ГАРРИ ПОТТЕРЕ)
HARRY POTTER – CAPITALIST PIG OR EPITOME OF VITAL PHILOSOPHIC IDEAS

Популярность серии романов о Гарри Поттере привела к тому, что их основная идея обсуждается критиками уже более 7 лет, и единого мнения пока не существует. В работе анализируются основные философские мысли Джоанны Роулинг, которые сравниваются с жизненными принципами человечества в XXI веке. Приводятся доказательства их важности и актуальности.

The success of the Harry Potter series has provoked a lively discussion among French literary theorists about the novel's underlying message. The authors of an article which appeared in the French daily *Le Monde* claim that the book's main idea is propaganda of capitalism in its worst sense. However, we insist that it is not right and Joanna Rowling in the first place actually promotes such concepts as love, loyalty, friendship, bravery, truth and convicts their opposites. The very thing we want to say is that the series are full of philosophical ideas close to our life and the depiction of capitalist universe helps to reveal the importance of these ideas. In our view the negative connotation of the article was caused by the surface reading of the novel. To prove our opinion we are going to compare the major principles of human life with the philosophy Harry Potter series convey.

First of all it should be mentioned that although the inhabitants of the enchanting world know all sorts of magic still the strongest magic which in the end saves them is love. As professor Dumbledore states, Love is a force that is more wonderful and at once more terrible than death, than human intelligence, than the forces of nature. Needless to say that the same is true for our world. There are well-known facts when love returned to life completely "lost" people, when kings gave up the throne because of love, when villains repented as they faced up the feeling. On the contrary mad love spoiled many souls, terrible deeds took place in the name of love.

Secondly, Rowling praises friendship and loyalty so vital for humans. Her characters encounter different debatable situations which reveal their ability to keep faithfulness to friends or its absence. Besides, the author brings up another very interesting issue. She considers that it takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies but just as much to stand up to our friends. Neville Longbottom who is considerably weaker than his friends Harry, Ron and Hermione tries to prevent them from violating school laws even if they are doing it with noble intentions. We can't but agree that this often happens at our schools and universities. When a group of students/pupils decides to skip classes there is always one who persuades them not to do so.

In terms of friendship Rowling also speaks about unity. The main thought on this issue is that we are only as strong as we are united and as weak as we are divided, and differences of habit and language are nothing at all if our aims are identical and our hearts are open. We claim that this point of view can be applied to the present situation in our world with the unsolved problems of terrorism, ecological disasters and the poverty of the third world countries.

Thirdly, during the series Harry Potter loses very dear people: his parents, his godfather, his teacher and some of his friends. In the end he realizes that people die only when we forget them and they are alive until they live in our hearts and we are loyal to them. So, on Harry's example we are taught that the dead we loved never truly leave us and though it is extremely hard we have to live further. Moreover, the fact that you can feel pain from the loss of somebody very close is your greatest strength and advantage as this proves that you human. Often the most severe dictators are mentally poor people as they are not able to suffer and to sympathize and

therefore to love. As Albus Dumbledore tells Harry, don't pity the dead, pity the living and above all those who live without love.

We also can't help speaking about the correlation of what we can do and what we decide to do. Albert Camus said once that we are the products of the choices we make. The heroes of the book prove this by 100 %. Lord Voldemort gives Harry Potter some really rare abilities, possessed only Slytherin faculty, but Harry himself wants to become a Gryffindor student, and the Sorting Hat takes into account his desire. When Harry starts hesitating about his genuine destiny and a very vague difference from Voldemort his teacher reminds him that it is our choices which show what we truly are far more than our abilities.

Besides, the question of innovations and progress can't be left without attention. Lord Voldemort's main mistake is the underestimation of future generations. He thinks that ten years which past since his disappearance did not change anything. He is so arrogant that he cannot imagine someone being cleverer in magic than he is. Dumbledore comments on it in the following way: Age is foolish and forgetful when it underestimates Youth. Many modern people deny the value of qualification courses and don not think about changes that take place around. They carry out their professional tasks in an outdated way and prevent our society from developing and acquiring progress.

Finally we can't but mention the commandment – Behave towards others in such a way you want them to behave towards you. The truth of this saying can be hardly disputed. It happens so that we do something not very good to a person and after a period of time we are surprised he/she does not want to help us. The situations from the novel might be exaggerated but they express much sense. Sirius Black does not bother to behave nicely towards his house elf Kreacher and the later betrays his master without any back thoughts. At first Harry is very angry with the elf but then he realizes that though Kreacher does not belong to the high rank of magicians he has the right to be treated respectfully. On the other hand Harry is nice to Dobby, the house elf of death eater Lucius Malfoy and he thinks it goes without saying that the elf helps him. As a result by forgetting the commandment we cause problems ourselves.

So, it may be concluded that the idea of the Harry Potter series is based on our universe. Joanna Rowling describes human beings on the example of her heroes. The novel is not just some fairy-tale but the reflexion of our life. Despite the happy end many characters are injured or even killed. The author could have revived them but she didn't because our world is the prototype of the magic one and we cannot enliven even the nearest and dearest. Therefore the Harry Potter series are aimed at teaching us how to behave and they can be justly called the epitome of vital philosophic ideas.