

# SATIRE ON REALITY IN THE STORY "MATTRESS" BY A.F. PISEMSKY

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#### ABSTRACT

The article provides a brief literary analysis of the story "Mattress" by a little-known Russian writer A.F. Pisemsky. The writer in many of his works turned to the topic of corruption of officials, the hard lot of peasants and applied various artistic techniques.

**KEY WORDS:** corruption of officials, opposition, contrasting details, phraseological unit.

#### DISCUSSION

Russian writer Alexei Feofilaktovich Pisemsky in many of his works reflected the theme of corruption of bureaucracy and the hard life of peasants. From an early age - while still studying at the Kostroma gymnasium, A. Pisemsky was fond of romantic literature, he even tried to write in this genre himself. In 1844, after graduating from the university, the future writer returned to Kostroma, where he served as an official for ten years. The service, especially the numerous trips to his native land, contributed to a large collection of material for creative activities.

Glory to A. Pisemsky, as a satirist, brought the story "Mattress", written in 1851. The satirical idea of the story is realized by contrasting the features of the "sphere" - a foreign land and a vulgar town that turned out to be hostile. The development of the plot is based on moral "assessments" of the heroes, who do not act so much as do nothing. It is the character's inaction that becomes the source of the satirical depiction of the spiritual crisis. In this regard, A. Pisemsky introduces a mediator into the plot, which helps the shy hero to communicate. The mediator resolves not only everyday, but also mental difficulties; shifting the tiresome, shy and even pleasant everyday details of my life onto other people's shoulders.

To create the image of Paul, A. Pisemsky uses characteristic satirical techniques that can be seen at the very beginning of the story - in the epigraph "It is very difficult to judge family matters, even impossible." This epigraph reflects two tendencies: satirical and biblical. The comic epigraph is created by a roll call with the epigraph of Leo Tolstoy's novel: "Vengeance for me" and "I will repay", which is interpreted as the problem of guilt and crime. The epigraph of the story helps to understand that the image of the protagonist cannot be perceived unequivocally: Paul can be condemned and sympathized with him at the same time. To understand the hero, let us turn to his name "Mattress". The very interpretation of this word is used in the work in a figurative sense and means "apathetic, lethargic and weak-willed person": *"Laziness is exorbitant, it has no exercise at all: he sits for days on end ... Mattress, perfect mattress!"* 

The portrait of the hero emerges from the story of Pavel Perepetui Petrovna's aunt: "he is not a gambler, not a freak, not a drunkard ..." the writer uses contrasting details that emphasize the peace and quiet of the hero's world. In every word we feel a sharp, evil mockery, reflecting the typicality of the image, characteristic personality traits that are also found in other heroes - laziness, inaction, inability to declare themselves in society. A portrait sketch helps us see the hero's misfortune - to languish in anticipation that something can be changed, but at the same time do nothing. A. Pisemsky not only names the shortcomings of his hero, but also makes fun of him, using contrast, sometimes exaggeration in the form of hyperbole. For example, "badly complex and awkward", but at the same time - "shades of thought and feelings"; "Educated, smart" - "there was some sluggishness and sluggishness."

The satirist uses comparative phrases that create an associative image of a bear: "don't study, son, be a bear"; "Still a young man, just just a bear;



sitting and chatting with his foot; and relatives call it a mattress." In the dialogues of the heroes, the author uses a multi-style vocabulary, which also gives the story a satirical sound: "tousled hair, unwashed hands"; "You always dance with rubbish"; "Dance with this unfortunate man"; "Brainy old man"; "Son, a terrible weirdo." In addition, A. Pisemsky uses a distortion technique in some phraseological expressions: "As if pulling his own burden" - in Russian: "his own burden does not pull". This phraseological unit has the meaning: "if you do something for yourself, then even the hardest work becomes easier." In the lips of the hero - Vladimir Andreevich - it sounds like a mockery, reflecting the character of the blonde.

As already mentioned, the writer not only satirically draws his characters, but also expresses their pain and suffering. This is clearly seen in the second part of the story: the punishment of the heroes begins with their wedding. Paul idealized his life and his life partner: in his dreams his life is beautiful, full of harmony and meaning, he looks with delight at his wife, but in reality this idealism is absent. The contrast between dream and everyday life helps the hero understand his wife's indifference, her unwillingness understand to him. Using psychological elements, A. Pisemsky shows us the moral fall of a person: his hero in the first part suddenly marries, in the second he dies. The tragedy of the situation is used, helping to see the contradiction between the moral qualities of a person and his false-ideal ideas about life.

In our opinion, the whole story "Mattress" is permeated with reality. The life of Russia at that time - like "stagnant water in a swamp", sucked in the best people who dreamed of getting up, changing something in life, but the environment around them was mentally immobile and morally impersonal. Ruthlessly accusing his hero of inaction, A. Pisemsky uses means of contrast. At the same time, the author of the story reflects the main quality of the era - the lack of human freedom: heroes, slaves or despots, who cannot be blamed, appear before us. For example, Beshmetov's wife, in the opinion of the satirist himself, is not to blame that she is soulless and indifferent, her views were influenced by the views and foundations of society, that is, "fate" and "soil". It is impossible to get rid of it, to get rid of it, because it has been absorbed from childhood. The author calls this process "Russian spirit".

The modern rethinking of Pisemsky's poetics allows us to see him as a person of his era - a nobleman in origin, but a peasant in spirit. Most often, researchers call the writer a "peasant of literature"; this is evidenced by the titles of the works: "Boyarshchina", "Mattress", "Piterschik", "Essays from the Peasant Life", "Carpentry Artel", "Old Lady". The critic I. Annensky determined that "he (Pisemsky) knew the secret oral speech of the people, like no one before or after him." "[1., 1979, p. 679].

Until now, the place of A. Pisemsky's satire in the literary process of the second half of the 19th century is poorly understood. In most scientific articles and dissertations, the writer's work is viewed through the prism of the classic works of I.S. Turgenev, L.N. Tolstoy, F.M. Dostoevsky, A.N. Ostrovsky. The stylistic features of the language of the works of A.F. Pisemsky are most often characterized on the basis of the same requirements that apply to the classics of Russian realism. However, the works of art by A.F. Pisemsky, filled with satirical pathos, do not meet the requirements. This factor leads to the fact that many researchers simply violate the requirement, which was once formulated by A.S. Pushkin: "a writer should be judged according to the laws he himself recognized above himself" [3, 2008, p. 24].

The study of the genre system of A.F. Pisemsky contributes not only to the knowledge and understanding of the individuality of the writer's creative position, but also to Russian literature of this period.

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