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## **УНІВЕРСАЛЬНА ПРОБЛЕМА ДОБРА Й ЗЛА ТА ЇЇ ІНТЕРПРЕТАЦІЯ В ДЕТЕКТИВНОМУ РОМАНІ «ВІДПОВІДЬ ЗНАЄ ЛИШЕ ЕВАНС» А. КРІСТІ (ПОЛІПАРАДИГМАЛЬНИЙ АНАЛІЗ)**

*Статтю присвячено комплексному поліпарадигмальному аналізу детективного роману А. Крісті «Відповідь знає лише Еванс». Методологія поліпарадигмального аналізу включає як літературознавчий, так і мовознавчий аспекти дослідження. Мета статті – проаналізувати шляхи репрезентації авторкою головної проблеми суспільства (проблеми добра й зла), а також шляхів її вирішення в романі. Написаний у 1935 р., цей детектив А. Крісті не втрачає своєї актуальності й завдяки «вічним» проблемам людства, представленим цікаво й актуально для різних поколінь, часів і народів, і завдяки специфічному способу викладу (особливий авторський стиль, вишуканість, неповторний витончений гумор, непередбачуваність сюжетних ліній і колізій).*

***Ключові слова:** текст, роман, детектив, сюжет, авторський стиль, поліпарадигмальний аналіз, комплексний підхід.*

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## **UNIVERSAL PROBLEM OF GOOD AND EVIL AND ITS INTERPRETATION IN THE DETECTIVE NOVEL “WHY DID NOT THEY ASK EVANS?” BY A. CHRISTEY (MULTY-PARADIGMAL ANALYSES)**

*The article deals with complex, multy-paradigmal analyses of the detective novel by A. Christey “Why did not they ask Evans?”. The methodology of multy-paradigmal analyses includes both literary and linguistic aspects of investigation. The aim of the article is to analyze ways of representation by the author the main problem of modern society – the problem of good and evil – as well as her own solution of it.*

*Among many best seller detective novels written by different authors all over the world the works by A. Christey are usually adored by readers of different ages and nationalities. Having been finished and published in 1935, her detective novel “Why did not they asked Evans?” was one of the first and the most attractive works by A. Christey in the world. What involves the wide audience of readers in her detective novels? Why do readers usually pay a very special attention to her works? The reply for these questions is rather simple: A. Christey is a great master of detective novels. She can keep the attention of the readers because she arises many universal social problems which have been burning for many centuries and give her own (often unexpected and unpredictable) solutions to them. All of them are united under one general name – the problem of good and evil. Readers find a lot of interesting things in her works. She speaks about her heroes and events with a unique, sophisticated humor. Many generations have been grown on her books. And like a talented teacher, in her books she gives to everyone her own replies for many questions of modern life and society: what to do and*

*how to behave in different situations, how to build relations with parents, with friends, how to define a good friend and, what is more important, how to become a true friend, a friend in need, etc. All these problems can be also globalized as one topical problem of young generations of the previous centuries as well as the youth of nowadays – what way in life to choose? To spread good in the world working hard at it day and night or easily multiply evil under the sun? Everyone faces this question every day in different ways. To investigate it in the chosen detective novel by A. Christey in frames of multy-paradigm approach is the main focus of the present research.*

*It is a duty of everyone to do the right choice in life. No doubt, people will follow A. Christey's books again and again to solve this important problem correctly in their personal lives. It is a rather complicated task, as it includes a lot of common, universal problems, like relations of parents and children, true friendship, choosing of profession, creating a family, etc. And, anyway, any solutions of them touches upon the choice between good or evil. So, how it all is represented in "Why did not they ask Evans?" Let us analyze in detail.*

**Key words:** text, detective novel, plot, author's style, multy-paradigm analyses, complex approach.

**Challenge problem.** Modern language and literature studies are aimed to two different types of investigation: 1) unique, case studies and 2) complex investigations. The second one has become topical for the last decades, mainly due to development of multy-paradigm approach, allowed to additionally employing inclusion notional and associative analysis, which highlighted the way native speakers conceptualize and associate a certain idea, notion, etc. (Тепехова, 2012: 88–101). Text analyses I frames of it has just been started. As a material of analyses we have chosen the seldom investigated novel by A. Christey "Why did not they ask Evans?". These facts clarify the novelty and topicality of the present research.

**Recent researches analyses.** Many researches have been done based on the most famous detective novels by A. Christey, uniting by the main heroes Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple (see works by S. Adams, J. Curran, M. J. Demarr, P. Haining, M. Shaw, S. Vanackere, etc.). These scientists pay their attention mainly on A. Christey's style, characterize the main heroes, investigate the composition and text structure of the detective novels in general. But there are only several researches published, devoted to the detective novel "Why did not they ask Evans?" (see works by R. Barnard, J. Cooper, N. and R. McWhirter, J. Morgan, Ch. Peers, B. A. Pike, R. Spurrier, J. Sturgeon, etc.). The following problems has been well investigated by the above mention authors: what is the phenomenon of A. Christey's detective novels and stories, what a great talent to deceive she has, what a huge popularity her books have in the world, and how much readers of all over the world appreciate her, the Queen of Detective Novel (OICS; Huining, 1990). But there is no research devoted to the complex literary and linguistic analyses of A. Christey's works. To correct this annoying mistake in the literary process, let's analyze her «Why did not they ask Evans?» in frames of complex, multy-paradigm approach.

**Target setting.** The present work is aimed on investigation of the problem of good and evil in the

detective novel by A. Christey "Why did not they ask Evans?" by means of its complex multy-paradigm analyses.

**The main results.** Our research touches upon the key problem, bringing into the open the author's intention, i. e., the main heroes as the embodiment of the author's point of view on the universal problem of good and evil. Good and evil in a family: Personal choice in life.

In her novel "Why did not they ask Evans?" A. Christey represents an ordinary, everyday life of British people. The events take place in Wales, Great Britain. The author shows rather successful and prosperous society. But this is only the first impression of it. Good and evil co-exist in it, bringing to its members different challenges and temptations.

So, as family is usually considered as the main unit of the society, let us analyze the main families describing by the author. In the text we see different types of families facing good-and-evil contradictions, as follows:

Leo and Amelia Cayman, supposed relatives of Alex Pritchard, who was found dyeing by Bobby and Doctor Thomas in the beginning of the novel. Amelia is Alex's sister. She feels terribly upset having got to know about Alex's death. Leo, as her husband, understands well her suffering of it. He shares her sorrow and feelings to poor Alex. A. Christey shows us in this couple the ideal relations between husband and wife, the relations that usually should be in a couple;

another type of families is the one of Doctor Nicholson and his younger wife, Moira. This is a very peculiar family. May be, due to his wife's young age, Dr. Nicholson considers that he can direct Moira's life and do with her everything he wants or suggests necessary to do. This is a strange and unpleasant family. No doubt, evil prevails in it. A lot of suspicions appear in readers' mind about Dr. Nicholson and his false-faced attitude to his wife. Unfortunately, this is a realistic representing of a spread authoritative partnership of husband and wife. Despot Dr. Nicholas hides his wife from surrounding people, he does not

let her communicate with neighbors. He hides his wife. Moira feels depressed and very lonely. It is hard to say, what happy life this man brought to his wife with their marriage. As the author shows in the text, it took Frankey a lot of efforts and actor's skills to role play the road accident to get to the Nicholsons' house. The Doctor explains to Frankey that his wife is ill, she needs permanent doctor's attention, she is almost mad, but... Frankey speaks to Moira and find her just a poor, unhappy woman who is disappointed of her family life and who is afraid of her husband. In this example A. Christey shows such a criminal attitude to family members as violence in a family. This is a very topical problem nowadays for most of countries. Women being pressed and intimidated by their husbands consider it is shameful to recognize family terror or they feel afraid to loose their still beloved, demonical husbands. And they have been suffering for years from them or even died. Moira Nicholas is just such a kind of woman. Here the author teaches us not to follow the way of Moira's life, never let a man to make his wife psychiatrically diseased or depressed deeply;

one of the best types of families represented in the detective novel under analyses is the family of Lady Frances Derwent. It is the embodiment of good. Frankey, a young lad, lives with her dad, sisters and brothers ("other children from the castle" (Christey, 1980), as the author says) in her dad's house. Nothing was said about her mother in the text. But the readers realize that Lord Marchington created the best dwelling and all the conveniences for his family. He is a rather rich man, so Frankey had got everything she wanted and needed since her childhood. At the same time, her father gave her the excellent education and social status. She was grown up and taught to good manners. Here the author shows the ideal relations in the family: parents care about their children, grow them up, educate them, give them all the best, teach them how to behave in society, promote them a love to people, nature, arts, etc. At the same time, in this family parents support their children and never press them, never curb their freedom, so it let children grow successful, healthy, well socialized, communicative;

one more good family type in the detective novel by A. Christey is the family of the Vicar of Marchbolt, Bobby's father. Like his friend Frankey, Bobby (Robert Jones) was grown in a happy family, together with his sisters and brothers (Christey, 1980). But the Vicar was not rich. He could not buy precious things to his family members, and he could not pay much for educating his children. Nevertheless, his children were taught to believe in God and choose the way of good in the life. This is a kind of family where

children respect and love their parents, help them. In such families there is a mutual understanding and care among their members. Although A. Christey does not make the Vicar's family idealistic. From one side, Bobby realizes that he should help to his dad and he tries to find a well paid job. But from the other side, like in any family, we can see some misunderstandings between Bobby and his dad. For example, Bobby contradicts his father having been late for the evening church service, at which he had promised to his dad to play the organ. "Naturally, his father would understand the circumstances, but all the same he wished that he had remembered to send a message by the doctor. The Rev. Thomas Jones was a man of extremely nervous temperament. He was, par excellence, a fusser, and when he fussed, his digestive apparatus collapsed and he suffered agonizing pain. Bobby, though he considered his father a pitiful old ass, was nevertheless extremely fond of him. ...The Rev. Thomas, on the other hand, considered his fourth son a pitiful young ass, and with less tolerance than Bobby sought to effect improvement in the young man" (Christey, 1980: 8).

These are not all the families described by the author. But in the above mentioned families types A. Christey embodies her view of the British society, and not only it. She expresses the intention that crimes can take place in every country, in every society, and in every family. If it happen or not – it depends on us.

So, in different ways the author tries to show us the intra-social relation in British society. She puts her heroes in different situations of ordinary, everyday life. A. Christey shows us that crime can take place in different social levels, and it is the choice of everyone to build the healthy families and healthy relations with each other in the society or just commit crimes and be punished. The author shows both positive and negative features of modern families to teach us how to live with our closest people, and how to build a prosperous society, in general. She stresses the idea that any evil will be won by good, and every crime should be clean. We should always direct our efforts on it.

In an expert manner, A. Christey embodies in her main and secondary heroes of the detective novel her own view of how to behave in society. She gives the replies for the questions which are rather topical for readers, especially for the youth. She shows how unnoticeable evil gets to our life, to the life of the whole society, and how dangerous it may be. We should always keep it in mind and make the right choice. At the same time, the author teaches us to support the side of good, the side of the Biblical dogmas about the win of the good, and the help of the Lord

to those who follow His way. To contrast it for us, A. Christey consequently proves that evil always will be open and punished, nevertheless, sooner or later. So, we should usually act in our life to let our parents and friends be proud of us, and never feel shy to ask them for help. We should not feel afraid to be open to the society and be ready to help to everyone in need, like Bobby and Frankey did in the detective novel under analyses.

**Conclusion.** The universal problem of good and evil is represented by A. Christey in her detective novel “Why did not they ask Evans?” in many different aspects. It touches upon both social spheres of life as well as certain persons – the main and secondary characters. It, probably, originates from Biblical interpretation of good and evil and gets a lot of special solutions in the novel under analyses. The main characters of the novel face it and try to solve it in very different ways.

However, A. Christey pays a lot of her special attention to the personality of her main heroes, making them unique. To a certain extent, one can recognize in them typical representatives of modern British society of the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Both Bobby and Frankey are sociable, open, communicable (especially Frankey), modest, hard-working, and quick-witted. They are ready to share what they have with other people who are in need. They both ready to offer any possible help. They were born and belong to different social circles, but it is not difficult for them to make friendship with each other and try to bring some benefit to people. They both like God’s angels in the novel. Here the author expresses her very

important idea, i. e., people can reach a lot when they are integrated to do the God’s will to safe a family – to protect a weak man, or to help to an old person, or to investigate a crime, etc. Being blessed by the God they are able to spread good in the society and win evil. A. Christey confirms that it is very important in life to choose the way of doing good, but not evil.

With a peculiar, sophisticated humor the author describes her main heroes. She characterizes them like well educated persons, but she does not represent them idealistic. From one side, A. Christey represents them as ordinary people, not very smart, without a special charm or charisma. In such a way she shows us that common people can do uncommon things perfectly. She teaches us not to put aside our goals and targets, just approach to them, step by step. From the other side, the author shows her main heroes unusual. They are devoted people. They usually try to do their best. They are clever-minded and rather reserved. In their investigation of the criminal Bobby and Frankey usually follow the proverb, think twice, and do once. Surely, they are a good example for us. They are always associated with good friends, friends in need, with kind attitude to each other and high spiritual values. They are good personalities to start family/families of their own, promoting in them these high spiritual values.

Further multy-paradigm researches in literature studies are supposed to be developed in frames of prose, poems and drama texts analyses, comparative literature studies. Further A. Christey’s works studies in frames of multy-paradigm approach are topical and in a great value as well.

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