

candle flickered into life, symbol of hope for millions. A single tiny candle, shining in the ugly dark. I laughed and blew it out.” And another one: “All it takes is one bad day to reduce the sanest man alive to lunacy.” You can feel how deep his words are, what successful comparisons and personifications he uses and this is a vital part of lexical stylistics and linguistics in general. The second example is “Last Laugh#6” (2001), the speech became poor and the most popular phrase is: “I hit Jason harder than that. His name was Jason, right?” and there weren’t any good locution which can be as rich as from “The killing joke”.

In conclusion, we can say that comics are a clear example of the changes of the English language, traced over three centuries, and therefore comics are of great importance for linguists and ordinary people who want to touch the English language and culture.

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THE SPECIFICS OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE HUMOR IN “THE SIMPSONS” CARTOON SERIES

Особенности англоязычного юмора в мультипликационном сериале «Симпсоны»

The aim of this article is to show from the linguistics point of view that the humor in the Simpsons series possess an ordinary (everyday) character while at the same time expressing absurdity of life, using play on words, puns, and double-meaning as methods of expression.

The Simpsons series is an American animated series within the genre of situational comedy, having been ceaselessly released since 1989, depicting the life of the Simpsons family.

The humor used in the series is sometimes difficult to understand; usually it conveys negative and uncomfortable meaning.

1. For instance, in the first episode of the second season, the character Bart Simpson being unprepared for a school test asked the bus driver to prompt a road accident, the driver replied he couldn’t but mentioned the luck as the possibility.

<Bart: –I got a test I'm not ready for. Can you crash the bus or something?

Driver: –Sorry, I can't do it on purpose. But maybe you'll get lucky>

The negativity and absurdness of the joke lies in the notion that an adult totally ignored the child’s “joke” on suicide.

2. The seventh episode of the second season is themed upon the Thanksgiving Day. In the Episode, Homer Simpson was watching the TV showing the Rugby match. Upon one of the sportsman falling and being unable to stand back, the commentator produced the joke on his condition and the Thanksgiving Day.

<Shoutcaster 1: –Yeah, he's out cold, Gil.

Shoutcaster 2: –Yes. They'll feed him dinner through a tube.

Shoutcaster 1: –Hope they can fit a turkey in there>.

Turkey being the symbol of the Thanksgiving Day, thus the authors created the PUN of somewhat sacrilegious nature.

3. In the seventeenth episode of the twenty third season Homer Simpson was appointed as a warden for robots performing their tasks on the manufacturing plant. After a conflict with one of the robots the latter electrocuted Homer. Homer deciding to ease the tension, calling the robot the joker of the group.

<Homer: –I guess I just met the joker of the group. Better watch out for you on April Fool's, am I right?>

By that phrase Homer meant that if electrocuting on a regular day is a “joke”, then the robot’s behavior on the Fool’s Day might be much deadlier.

4. In the twelfth episode of the first season Lisa Simpson was being insinuated by others telling her that she was being stupid due to her being blond, thus forcing her to pay attention to everything related to the topic. While she was watching TV with her brother, a clown was performing telling jokes, all of them on the topic of blondes.

<Clown: –You know why it takes longer to build a blonde snowman? You have to hollow out the head.>

In his explicitly expressed opinion making a “blond snowman” requires making a hole in its head, only because it is blond. This joke produced response from the audience, which can be interpreted as a sign of agreement. The stereotype of blonds being silly is made as an object of ridicule, at the same time it is appealing to the audience due to its recognizable roughness.

There are of course more examples of the like humor in the series; all of them expressing the absurdity or negative routine of the situation. The authors of the series are playing on the low registers of human sense of humor provoking the worst and ridiculing at the same time through the catharsis of self-recognition. Thus we can see that jokes in The Simpsons mostly carry the routine and ordinary (everyday) character.