



Charlotte Bronte: From shadow to reality

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to investigate and compare data about Charlotte Bronte. Initially, it presents some specific information about the life and literary works of the author. Secondly, it draws the reader's attention to the personality of the writer by depicting her internal and external appearance. Finally, the article reveals some fragments from the author's novel "The Professor" and intends to decode the literary and actual messages of the work.

Keywords:

Bronte sisters, Victorian period, feminism, love, letters, Currer.

Introduction

Charlotte Bronte was born in Thornton, Yorkshire. She was the third child (there were six in total) in the family of the Anglican clergyman Patrick Bronte. At the age of five, Charlotte's mother died, and at nine, her two older sisters, Mary and Elizabeth.

The surviving children: Charlotte, Emily, Anne and Branwell - went headlong into literary work. Charlotte and her brother wrote stories about the fictional English colonies in Africa centered on the capital city of Glass, while Emily and Ann wrote books and poems about Gondal.

In 1836 Charlotte Brontë made her first attempt to enter the literary process. She wrote a letter to Robert Southey, the romantic poet of the Lake School, asking for his opinion on her poetry. The letter has not reached us, however, according to the poet's response, we can judge Charlotte's big plans in the poetic field: "You, who so ardently desire to "become famous for centuries" poetess, could cool your ardor to some extent, seeing the poet on his slope life and noticing the effect that age has on our hopes and inspirations. Southey's answer influenced the poetess quite strongly: she decided to move from romanticism to realism and henceforth began to use a pseudonym.

In 1846 the Bronte sisters published at their own expense a collection of poetry under the pseudonyms Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell. Despite the fact that the publication was a failure, in the same year, Charlotte began searching for publishers to publish Bell novels: "The Professor", "Wuthering Heights" and "Agnes Grey".

Unexpected fame

Charlotte wanted to no longer spend money on publishing her works, and therefore, when Emily and Ann sent manuscripts and 50 pounds to the London publisher Thomas Newby, Charlotte refused. She continued her search for a publisher to print her novel, but her efforts were in vain. Only the firm "Smith, Elder and Company" wrote a refusal and explained its reason - lack of attraction. Charlotte, having received the letter, sent them the manuscript of Jane Eyre: An Autobiography that same month. The novel was accepted and published. Currer Bell became famous.

Jane Eyre has a remarkable history. Charlotte dedicated the second edition of the novel to William Thackeray, but the chance is that in the novel the heroine's lover has a crazy wife whom he kept in the attic. Thackeray, in turn, also had a crazy wife, whom he kept in a mental hospital, and his children were also

raised by governesses. The public imagined that Thackeray was the prototype of the beloved, and he was having an affair with a governess who wrote an autobiography, and when the rumors reached Charlotte, she fell into despair, but could not do anything.

In the first half of 1848 there was a scandal - "Wuthering Heights" and both books by Anne Bronte were attributed to Currer Bell, and therefore Charlotte had to come to London and reveal her pseudonym. Along with literary events, trouble came to the Bronte family - in the second half of 1848, Branwell and Emily Bronte died, and Ann died in May of the following year. Charlotte and her father were left alone. These two years Charlotte devoted herself to writing the novel Shirley, which went out of print in October 1849.

In 1850-52, Charlotte wrote her last novel, "Villette", which reflected the events that happened to her family. The author puts the heroine of the novel in hopeless situations; she is doomed to failure and loneliness from the very beginning of the work.

In 1854, Charlotte Bronte married her father's assistant, clergyman Arthur Bell Nicholls, and died the following year. She has several unfinished works left.

Charlotte Brontë had a rather impressionable temperament. Having a rather limited circle of observations, she was able to convey with amazing brightness and saturation everything that she saw and imagined. Perhaps this allows us to say that Charlotte Bronte had the features of a brilliant writer.

"The Professor" : Who is who?

The novel "The Professor" (1847) is the first prose experience of the writer, which is distinguished primarily by its autobiographical nature. It is no coincidence that in the afterword to one of the domestic editions of the above-named novel says: "All Charlotte Bronte with her thoughts and feelings, her difficult childhood and joyless youth read on its pages. All subsequent famous works of this author, the fate and views of their heroes came out of the little-known to the reader ""The Professor" . Sh. Bronte's first novel, although

rejected by publishers during her lifetime, is nonetheless of considerable interest.

On the one hand, "The Professor" , being the creative embodiment of Ch. Bronte's personal experience in Brussels (it is there that the events that served as the basis of the plot of the novel unfold), precedes the appearance of the novel "The Town", on the other hand, despite the technical imperfection, it is one of the earliest attempts to consider the role of men and women and their relationship, undertaken by the writer. As S. Foster rightly believes that, the most significant aspect of this novel is the narration on behalf of a man who, although not of great psychological persuasiveness, acts as a means to express Charlotte Bronte's own sense of dualism.

Apparently, initially the writer was driven by the same idea as the choice of the author's pseudonym - to hide belonging to the female sex. However, such tactics, in our opinion, clearly demonstrate her veiled desire to explore such concepts as "masculinity" and "femininity" .

Madame Wooler, headmistress of the girls' school where the writer once studied, recalls Charlotte is ugly, a little "old lady", short-sighted and withdrawn. It is easy to recognize in this portrait the appearance of the protagonist of the novel "The Professor"". Trying on the mask of Crimsworth, S. Bronte turns both a mocking and critical look at the dominance of men over women. On the other side, this technique allows her to give an objective assessment of the fair sex.

The writer herself has always tried to put herself outside restrictions that the Victorian tradition erected for a woman: "I cannot, when I write, constantly think about myself and about what is considered elegant and charming for the female half of humanity".

Conclusion

As well as the male pseudonym, William Crimsworth's mask made it possible for a woman (Ch. Bronte) to defend herself from the attacks of Victorian critics and readers. Just like the author's, Crimsworth's personality is contradictory and dualistic, both in terms of gender and psychological.

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