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TYPE OF PSEUDOCLEVER MAN IN THE LITERATURE OF WESTERN EUROPE: «PATH» FROM ANTIQUITY TO ROMANTICISM

The article deals with the main trends in the functioning of the type of pseudoclever man (the fool, the fool or the trickster which introduces himself as the scientist) in the foreign literature from antiquity to romanticism. Special attention is paid to Renaissance «literature of fools», creativity of J.-B. Moliere, J. Swift, E. T. A. Hoffmann.

The article specifies that the transformation of this type in the literature determined by the relation to the phenomenon of «stupidity» at different stages of development of literary process. They say that the type of pseudoclever man in literature has a comic essence, because it is based on the contradiction between form and content (being stupid, he introduces himself as the clever man).

This type functions in antique drama, in the medieval fabliaux, Renaissance pamphlets and allegorical satires, comedies of Classicism. He used to ridicule folly, vanity, ignorance.

In the foreign literature of the 18th century this type is used to criticize science, which has no relation to the needs of fact, people who want to appear to be intelligent, because it is fashionable. J. Swift's Roman «Gulliver's travels», V. Congreve's comedy «Double game», B. Sheridan's comedy «Rivals» proves this fact. At this time in foreign literature appear images of pseudoclever women.

Special attention is paid to literature romanticism. It is noted that the writers of romance ridicule the stupidity of Philistines who want to look smart (creativity of G. Heine, E. T. A. Hoffmann).

Talking about the perspective of this type's studies in the literature of the second half of the 19th - 20th centuries.