

HISTORY, STRUCTURE AND LINGUOPRAGMATIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH RIDDLES

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Annotation

Today, the demand for language learning is increasing. The study of the culture, traditions, and oral folklore of the country whose language is being studied is also gaining importance. In this regard, folklore, especially riddles, plays a significant role. Learning a language with the help of riddles is more interesting, and at the same time it also reflects important linguocultural features. Riddles are of various types, and they embody a number of pragmatic meanings.

This article provides information about the origin of English riddles, their types, as well as a broader understanding of the interesting riddles and their unique description. A pragmatic analysis of a number of riddles is revealed.

Keywords

riddle, conundrum, enigma, pragmatics, linguopragmatics

Аннотация

Сегодня спрос на изучение языка растет. Изучение культуры, традиций и устного народного творчества страны, язык которой изучается, также приобретает все большее значение. В этом отношении большую роль играет фольклор, особенно загадки. Изучение языка с помощью загадок более интересно, и в то же время отражает важные лингвокультурологические особенности. Загадки бывают разных типов и воплощают в себе ряд прагматических значений.

В данной статье представлена информация о происхождении английских загадок, их типах, а также более широкое представление об интересных загадках и их уникальном описании. Выявлен прагматический анализ ряда загадок.

Ключевые слова

загадка, головоломка, энигма, прагматика, лингвопрагматика

Kirish Beautiful examples of riddles can be found in the oral literature of every nation. However, they differ in their historical origin and types. In English literature, a riddle is defined as a sentence, question, or phrase that has two meanings. It is also said that riddles can encourage a person to think deeply or bring a smile to their face with their interesting definitions. Riddles came to English literature from Old English poetry. Their historical roots go back to the works of Plato and Aristotle. In ancient Greece, riddles were one of the main tools that sharpened the mind, sharpened the intellect, and formed wisdom.

Riddles were written in Old English, an early form of the English language, around the year 700. These riddles were about storms, ships, books, and falcons. Some of the riddles may seem simple, but they are difficult to understand. This is because the riddles provided a direct connection with the natural phenomena and everyday life of the time. One of the first books to be printed, intended for the entertainment of the people, was a collection of riddles.

A collection of riddles, “Amusing Questions”, was published in England in 1511 by the printer Wynkyn de Warde. [1] Riddles later became widely used in theatre. Shakespeare used many of them in his plays.

Main part. English riddles are divided into a number of groups according to their structure, period of creation, essence of the content, and type of object being puzzled. English riddles are divided into old riddles and contemporary riddles according to the period of creation. Old riddles are included in the Exeter Book. This book is also known as Exeter Cathedral Library MS 3501, Codex Exoniensis. The riddles collected in the book were collected by various authors. According to information, riddles began to be collected in monasteries in the 700s. This book was presented to the church of Exeter in 1072 by Leofric, the first priest of Exeter. This book is considered the largest surviving source of Old English literature. The riddles are given in three groups.

The riddles cover topics such as nature, people, battlefields, kitchen utensils, and the animal world. **For example:**

*I war of the against wave and fight against wind,
do battle with both when I reach to the ground,
covered by the waters. The land is strange to me.
I am strong in the strife if I stay at rest.
If I fail at that they are stronger than I
and forthwith they wrench me and put me to rout.*

*They would carry away what I ought to defend.
I withstand them then if my tail endures
and the stones hold me fast. Ask what my name is. [6]*

This riddle is also related to seafaring, and its answer is anchor. The uniqueness of ancient riddles is that they were written in poetic form, but when translated into modern English, they are mostly prose. The riddles written in the Exeter Book have been studied in depth by scholars such as Marcella McCarthy and Frederick Tupper, a professor at the University of Vermont. Pitre also gives the following definition of the riddle in his conclusions: The riddle is an arrangement of words by which is understood or suggested something that is not expressed or else it is an ingenious and witty description of this unexpressed thing by means of qualities and general traits that can be attributed quite as well to other things having no likeness or analogy to the subject. [6]

The types and thematic content of riddles created in modern English are extremely diverse. They have various classifications according to their scope. They are mainly divided into two groups according to their structure. These are enigmas and conundrums.

An enigma is a problematic puzzle whose solution is expressed in a metaphorical direction. The person who solves it has to think very deeply. For example:

Pronounced as one letter,
And written with three,
Two letters there are,
And two only in me.
I'm double, I'm single,
I'm blue, black and grey
I'm read from both ends
And the same either way. [5]

This riddle about the eye is thought-provoking. As mentioned in the description, it can also refer to a bee, pronounced as one letter. The English word Bee also consists of three letters in the script, and has a two-letter composition. However, in the following explanations, the fact that it is two, and that it is in blue, black, and gray tones, makes us think a little more. The last stanza indicates that it can be read from both sides and gives the same meaning.

The second type of riddle is called a "conundrum". A conundrum is a type of riddle that has a simple structure and logic. The answer to such riddles can be found in the content or they easily point to the answer. Here are a number of examples:

In winter and in summer

They stand in both one colour. (Fir)

There are also types of English riddles, such as poetic and prose, Game riddles, Pun. Most of the modern English riddles are humorous and are structured in the form of puns (word play). They are used to increase the agility and resourcefulness of children.

"What's black and white and red (read) all over?"

"A newspaper."

"What's brown and sticky?"

"A stick."

When talking about the linguopragmatic properties of riddles, we first discuss linguopragmatics. Pragmatics, a special branch of linguistics, deals with language and the relationships between language users. Pragmatics focuses on the impact of the speaker's intended utterances and the listener's interpretation. [2]

Linguistic pragmatics does not have a clear form, appearance, its scope includes many issues related to the speaking subject, the addressee, their mutual relations in communication, and the situation of communication. [1]

The linguopragmatic nature of riddles refers to the degree of understanding of the riddle between the person telling the riddle and the person solving it. We will consider this in the analysis of riddles below.

What soup is the hardest?

From a pragmatic point of view, the riddle teller is asking about the thickest type of soup. Answer: /kæsti:l/ is given in this form. The listener initially interprets the answer as /cast steel/ because the word "solid" is usually associated with "steel." He thinks that the speaker is violating the maxim of quality, since soup cannot be poured or made from steel.

Also, the maxim of method is violated because the answer to the riddle is vague and confusing. Finally, the cultural context of the riddle and the common knowledge between the speaker and the listener allow him to understand the original meaning of the riddle. /kastiliya/ is actually a common name for a thick type of soup. It is presented as /kæsti:l/. [4]

Question: What is a monster's favorite dessert?

Answer: I-Scream

Here the discussion is about Halloween. According to English culture, people dress up in various scary costumes on this holiday. The riddler is asked what the creature's favorite dessert is, and the answer is expressed in the form of a pun, in writing it is expressed as "I scream", but when pronounced orally [ais kri:m] it is pronounced like "ice cream".

Conclusion. It is important to note that riddles also play a special role in English folklore. Ancient riddles are distinguished by their originality, poetic form

and high level of imagery. Modern English riddles also have interesting types such as "puns" and "game riddles", which help develop children's thinking skills and increase their ingenuity.

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