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THE INFLUENCE OF THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT ON THE FATE OF THE CHARACTERS OF VICTOR HUGO'S WORK "CLAUDE GUEUX"

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ABSTRACT

In this article, the pain of the humiliated people in the 19th century was revealed by V. Hugo on the example of the fate of the heroes of the work "Claude Gueux" and it was described that in that period, due to popular protests, crime increased, and the highest punishment for him was the death penalty.

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The great French writer Victor Hugo entered the literary process as a poet and novelist in the 20s of the XIX century. It would not be wrong to say that the celebration of romanticism in French literature and art during 1820-30 years is directly related to the work of Victor Hugo.

Although his poetry collections "Odes et Ballades. 1828", "Les Orientales. 1829", novels such as "Han d'Islande. 1823", "Bug Jargal. 1826" were early exercises, they were recognized in the world of literature as a bold step towards romanticism. These works laid the foundation for the formation of romanticism not only in the work of young Hugo, but also in French literature.

Hugo's understanding of the world and society is very far from "divinity" and religious beliefs. As the Russian literary critic E.M. Evnina wrote, the understanding of "God" is synonymous with the concept of "spiritual-moral ideal" for Hugo; it is an inner voice that tells a person where is the truth and where is the lie; this is the head of goodness, which exists invisibly in the whole world, in the whole universe, in constant action against darkness and evil [3; p.208].

At the end of his life, Hugo thought: "We want to go along the steep path to progress... All the politics of God is smoothing the uneven roads" [1; p.15].

The hard life of the oppressed people, the death penalty, and the fight against injustice were considered major themes in Victor Hugo's work. Because he was a witness of execution of the death penalty since his childhood and mobilized all his creative and political power to abolish this type of punishment. The injustice, cruelty and futility of the death penalty were reflected in the author's works "Claude Gueux" written in 1834 and "Le dernier jour d'un condamné" written in 1829.

As Hugo talks about the relationship between crime and punishment, wrongdoers are often victims rather than perpetrators. As the main responsible for this situation: "The people are hungry and poor. Poverty is sending them to crime, drowning them in the swamp of prostitution. Have mercy on the people whose sons are taken by prisons and brothels. We have more prisoners, more prostitutes." If we pay attention to the fate of Valjean, he once spent 5 years in prison for stealing bread: "He would confess his crime. He asked himself: maybe it wouldn't have happened if I had a job. What's the use of justifying myself?! But the scale of the deed and the punishment are not always equal..." [7; p. 97].

Victor Hugo's work "The Last Day of a Man Condemned to Death" ends with the following sentences: "The social system of the past was based on three pillars, that is, the priest, the king and the executioner. It has been a long time since some voice was heard saying that the gods will pass away. And recently another voice has arisen and shouted that the kings will pass away. A third voice has arisen, let the executioners go too, it's time to say

At the same time, the stones of the old society begin to fall one after another. They were able to say, "God remains" to those who have mercy on God. To those who have mercy on the kings - the Motherland remains. There is nothing to say to those who feel sorry for the executioners. But don't believe that order will disappear with the executioner. The dome of the future society will not collapse without this terrible key" [8; p. 227].

The executioner, according to the court report, slowly removed her from him. As the executioner's assistant was tying him to the infamous machine, Claude motioned to the priest, "Take the five francs from my right hand," and said:

-For the poor [9].

In this example, the "executioner"'s avoidance of murder suggests that Claude Gueux's human emotions, even the executioner, were affected. In each nation, it is noticeable that each author describes the influence of the social environment on the character of his hero. The portrait of the characters is saturated with the consequences of the cruelty and injustice of the world, they are different types of heroes that reveal the idea of the work.

Hugo describes the injustices in society through the fate of the hero of the work "Claude Gueux". The author "Claude Gueux" deals with issues such as the fact that injustices in society lead people to crime. The hero of the work is also a poor, conscientious and at the same time very noble humanity, which is clearly shown through his artistic depiction.

Claude caught him in his arms and caught him from falling, and smilingly said to the Crown Procurator:

- ✓ Here is that wicked man who shares his bread with others.
- ✓ Thus he kissed Alben's hand [9].

Although the main character in this work is Claude Gueux, the plot focuses on Claude being imprisoned for a minor crime. But it can be observed that Claude became a murderer under the influence of this character, who walks to the main character named Alben, who gives half of his wealth to Claude and thus wins his love.

In this story, the writer reflects one of the main social problems of the position of the working class. The true story of Claude Gueux, a laborer who was sentenced to death in 1832. Hugo tried to prevent the murderer, to reduce the punishment, but all his attempts were unsuccessful. Using the example of Claude, the author shows how bourgeois society destroys a person. Injustice in society creates difficult situations for the lower class, which means that no matter how willing people are, the difficulties of life can bend a person, Claude looks much older than his age, through the wrinkles on his face.

The image of Claude Gueux, who was once an honest worker, but now considered a thief, radiated strength and majesty" [1;p. 23]. In this place, the author expressed that even if a person was extremely humiliated, even if he became a conscientious thief, he did not lose his pride.

"Despite his young age, his forehead was wrinkled from halit, and a few white strands appeared among his jet-black hair" [1;p. 23].

- He skillfully described the fact that a person, despite being young, looks older than his age as a result of difficulties in society and the loss of his dignity, and the signs of old age appear. He expressed this situation deeply through the words "déjà" and "encore".

Despite the fact that Hugo believes that space determines the spiritual, spiritual and moral life of the people, in the artistic world of his novels the spiritual, spiritual and moral life is primary, and the space is only a description of the image.

This poor, illiterate working man looked more like an orator than a murderer. He stood boldly in front of the court with an open face and a bright face, he spoke without raising his voice, but speaking from the heart, moving his hands in a uniform but strong manner [9].

In this passage, the author provided the formation of a special moral, strong image based on the transfer of social phenomena, existing reality, characteristics of the era to a certain human character.

"Claude Gueux" shows that the hero of the work was an honest worker before going to prison, he was sent to the Clairvaux-Marx prison to serve his sentence for theft, it shows how time affects the human psyche and that place leads him to the level of a murderer.

"Clervaux is a chapel turned into an exile, a monk's cell turned into a cell, an altar turned into a sanctuary" [1; page 22].

This space - as a place where the events of the work develop, includes the lives of the entire characters. Basically, the events of the story take place there, starting from the prison and ending with the execution of Claude.

And Honore de Balzac said about V. Hugo's story "Claude Gueux" (in which human dignity is hit to the ground, unjust death sentence of a prisoner is sharply condemned) that in such a work an artist, a writer, a poet shows his talent the brightest [2].

In Hugo's Claude Gueux, the secret struggle between the warden of the prison and Claude Gueux is disconnected, mutually exclusive, but here the struggle is continuous. Where equal forces oppose each other, it is not without reason that those situations end tragically. However, although the struggle here is not between equal forces in terms of their place in society, in the prison, which is the place of the work, the warden of the prison, who realized that Claude Gueux's place among the prisoners is superior to that of the chief warden, begins to fight against him through his hatred. The struggle between them shows a completely subjective situation in the eyes of others.

The hero of the play swallows his inner feelings and appeals to the chief warden of the prison:

"Mr. Chief Inspector, bring my comrade back to me," continued Claude, following the inspector.

- This is impossible!
- Mr. Chief Inspector, Claude began to beg in such a pitiful voice that if the devil heard it, he too would have softened his heart... [1; page 41].

This situation in the work shows a break in the sequence of "hate" in the inner experience of a person and "humanity" in the external relationship, and creates an antithesis in the mental state of a person. At the same time, he was barely able to control his hatred. Because the surrounding prisoners were aware of his intentions, they wished very much that this terrible situation would not happen. With this, the author shows that due to injustices in society, good, noble, hard-working people become murderers and criminals.

Claude Gueux's court speech is a perfect author's monologue, in which the writer confronts bourgeois society's callous attitude towards ordinary people. The government and the chamber pass laws, judges sentence to prison and death penalty, but they do not know the needs and pain of the people.

"... True, I am a thief and a murderer, yes, I stole and killed. But why did I steal? Why did I kill "[1; p. 48].

Through these words of Claude, the author expressed that the representatives of the common class cannot find answers to their questions anywhere, in any situation, by repeating Claude's question even after the verdict was read.

The reason for this was mainly the chief inspector of the prison. Sensing Claude's affection for Alben, he tried to torment them by separating them. Through this incident, the author describes the injustices in society, people being sentenced to severe punishment for even a small crime, the poor people being oppressed by the ruling circles for no reason, and nobody listening to the pain of the people. That is why the society is drowning in the swamp, the struggle against the government and protests will not yield results, and the poor people will not be able to achieve freedom in the near future.

Hugo never stopped saying that "Freedom is the first need, the first right, the first duty of man". The French revolution of 1789 is the main inspiration of Hugo's work. He stated: "The revolution, the entire revolution, is the source of the literature of the 19th century. Romanticism and socialism are the same phenomenon" [5;p. 212].

In short, in his stories ("Claude Gueux") and novels, Victor Hugo defended and sympathized with the humiliated, oppressed, honest people. Despite how conscientious the hero of the novel "Claude Gueux" became, he became a victim of society's injustices. He became a criminal and was sentenced to death. Through this incident, the author describes the injustices in society, people being sentenced to severe punishment for even a small crime, the poor people being oppressed by the ruling circles for no reason, and nobody listening to the pain of the people. That is why the society is drowning in the swamp, the struggle against the government and protests will not yield results, and the poor people will not be able to achieve freedom in the near future.

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