



Research Article

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Heritage of Albanian children literature - Creator and Researcher Astrit Bishqemi

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the monographies of "Astrit Bishqemi" an Albanian creator and researcher of children and young literature, which highlights the figure and rich literature activity of the writer, novelist, narrator, story teller, translator of Italian, French, of this multidimensional researcher.

Facing this humongous literature and scientific work, this monography required a serious work, persistent and challenging, in order to present all the data for the author and his creativity. That is why the realization of this study comes in its own originality, regarding the methodology, scientific writings, interviews or declarations during conversations; the research method to collect works, articles, reviews and many more writings held in conferences and scientific symposiums from Albanian researchers in the area of children literature. Thus, this study presents not only a wide variety of the work of Bishqemi, but also a detailed narration of the children literature during the time.

Keywords: rich heritage, monography, creator, researcher, literature.

1. Introduction

The researcher and devoted creator Bishqemi, is a well-known name in Albanian children literature, clearly presented by his rich contribution for children and young people. His works in literature and science make him a lecturer, researcher, writer, romancier, novelist, story teller, translator from Italian and French language. This study is an original research, that uses works, articles, reviews, analysis in conferences, interviews about the author. It includes also an analysis of the author's publications.

2. Advantages and merits that point out artistic criticism for the creations of Bishqemi

The thematic diversity and the wealth of the scientific knowledge that the works of this writer transmit, can be explained by the fact that the writer initially graduated in maths and physics. As a teacher he understood that this subjects were seen as very difficult, and were not very attractive such as other subjects like literature, history or music. That is why, in order to make physics more attractive to students, he decided to write lots of stories published in the newspapers and kids journals during the '60's, under the title "The narrations of uncle physician". The themes varied, starting from the physics texts, cosmos, scientists views for the future or the production technology such as production of cement, pesticides etc. This merit is noticed from the following works in this volume.

Xhepa (1972) states: *"The subjects of the stories are twined based on the scientific data. With a special warmth and characteristic freedom for the age, they attract children's attention into the unknown, making them to critically think about the happenings of the world phenomena. Children are curious by nature themselves, and want to know everything, and the scientific data within the narrations is not presented dull, but mixed within the interesting fables, simplifying them without deforming and vulgarizing (Xhepa, 1972).*

Other researchers express the same considerations for the author. Bevapi (1979) writes about his novels:

"Another merit is the wide horizon that the author opens to young readers, the scientific accuracy of knowledge, as well as the description of facts and phenomena from different areas of natural sciences, such as: from physics, astronomy and mathematics, from which many phenomena and problems are interestingly addressed. Through this cosmic flight, the three cosmonauts, together with the reader, learn many things and the fantasy of new science and technology is ignited".

Apart from all these methods, the thematic variety of the author was not always supported. He was contradicted and objected by editors at the time. In one of the symposiums the author himself addresses this issue:

"Sometimes, the editors of the publishing house 'N. Frashëri' instead of wishing "good luck" to writers of this type of literature, discourage them, and as an example, the editor office replied about the novel "Beyond the Solar Court": Albania does not build rackets and cosmic ships, that is why such themes are not interesting for us (!!!)..." (Kadriu, 2013).

Other critics like Çerma (1972) describe Bishqemi's works:

"Every story of the volume has its own fable, even the conflict. The presence of conflict gives them great development opportunities. From phrase to phrase, events are sorted gradually, and this further enhances children's desire to know in detail the artistic material they are reading".

Likewise, Boçi (2001):

"The novel's fable is nimble, action-filled and surprising, with sparkling fantasy. The subject follows a simple, straight line, without deposition. The dramatic tension that build up, it's all

about the little reader from one chapter to another".

Bevapi's (1979) memory draws the attention by noting and appreciating another masterful technique:

"In order to make the story more attractive, the author mysteriously interrupts the events, and makes surprising stops during the narration".

Boçi (2001) in his previously mentioned analysis emphasizes the characters of the creations:

"The second merit of the novel is giving these characters great passion for science, these brave, willful, sacrificing, unsparing people. And all these are very inspiring for the younger generation, educating young readers with the love for science and admiring qualities of their character that is in the training".

Writer Myftari (1978) is impressed by Bishqemi by another positive characteristic, optimism and emotional strength of creations. He states:

"... he enabled that the novel portrays optimism, desire and ability to learn everything. Thus, the writer with the emotional and convincing style invites to experience these cosmic environments during the reading process of the novel".

Bishqemi's artistic books include various genres such as stories, fairy tales and novels. Nelaj (2008) states:

"The pillar of the artistic creation of this author remains the novel, this genre of huge dimensions, even though it is hard to create especially for children".

The age of the children for whom the writer creates varies a lot. There are stories for all ages, not only in short proses, but for long ones too. In this context, the novel for the preschool age *"The dresses of the swallows"* and the novel for the teenagers *"Chronicle with the tank"* can be mentioned.

Another aspect, is the quality, that these creations have, based on the literature criticism, on the analyses and articles of the scholars. The positive side of these artistic creations is considered their geographical aspect. The fables of creations, the various collections of stories and fairy tales, novels etc, develop mostly in the homeland (in towns and villages, even identified), but also in other countries of the world like: Italy, Germany, Greece, Turkey, Kosovo and Macedonia. Thus, *"The author, with mastery, intuition and fantasy, in the form of Henri's tourist trips, sometimes with grandparents and sometimes with his parents, moves events from Germany to Austria, then Turkey and finally Italy, accompanying them with historical accounts and descriptions, beautiful and colorful stories and images from these countries (Nelaj, 2008).*

Literary criticism agrees and states that Bishqemi has faithfully reflected the world of the children and their psychology. Here is the opinion of the poet Vyshka (1975):

"...it is immediately noticeable the effort of the author to faithfully reflect the world of little children, a world he knows very well. The new writer has been working for a long time as a teacher and this helped him to put to work his artist will into the wonderful world of children, and to discover the secrets of this fun world, to discover and reflect their interests, desires and dreams".

The academic Dedja (1976) uses a metaphor for this, building the figure from the

creation and analyzes:

"... the author has successfully found not only "the key to the warehouse" for the armies weapons, but also the key to enter the psychology of our children today, showing them in a simple way the events from the heroic war in the past, and from life today".

Balliçi (1986) has analyzed the novel "Looking up" and states:

"He managed to write a work of art with evident artistic values, a work that not only satisfies the young readers, but also the adults. When you read it, you cannot help but feel between the lines and pages the warm feeling and a pleasant thought. The author loves the people whom he writes for, even the ones who have just made a mistake (Balliçi, 1986).

In all his works, the author tries not to use journalistic phrases. Also, he is far from moralizations, coming from his teaching experience too. His works are fresh, joyful, that come with humor, so much needed from the youngsters. Here is how Kosovo scholar Sylva (2015) expressed his ideas:

"Abandonment...": "The way he starts his writings, apart from making them attractive, enhances the motif of the author to write. So attractive are the ending of these writings. It is such a pleasant and stylistic combination of the real literature text and the scientific one too, making it readable and attractive for the reader. These works come as writings of an experienced narrator, a famous and honorable scholar of children literature".

"the writer and scholar Astrit Bishqemi with "History of Albanian literature for children" has created a work which will be of great help to future students and scholars of our children's literature".

Kodra (2009) after analyzing the text "History of Albanian literature for children and young people" concludes:

"The history of Albanian literature for children and young people" by the scholar Astrit Bishqemi, represents a small step forward in affirming this important branch of Albanian literature with an equal artistic dignity with adult literature, to give this Cinderella of Albanian literature her deserved place as a princess alongside her older sister, Literature for adults".

3. Analytical monograph about the author

Shkodra's (2018) study illuminates the creativity and study of author Bishqemi in the work "Anathematized values/traces and studies". The scientific research work appears on every page of his book, where serious, artistic, aesthetic, reflective and revolting treatment is noted. Shkodra (2018) emphasizes that the work "Anathemised Values", comes as a documentary, as a painful story lived in the world of creator's work. The scholar states that Bishqemi has included articles for some writers and translators from the poetic category of the truth, as their works have so much art and spiritual light, bringing a creative and original universe, realized in an artistic high dimension, with ideal, educative and linguistic values. During the analytical and synthetic analysis, special attention is given to accurate data, real evidence of people, poets, creators, translators, many condemned figures during the monist system to highlight the unquestionable values of Bishqemi, In his monograph, Shkodra (2018)

testified to the prominent individuality of the cognitive and observer of artistic, aesthetic, educational, linguistic and national values. The work consists of 18 studies. It highlights that the writer in addition to his great contribution to the field of children literature, has also given a valuable contribution to the field of studies of children's works from the Renaissance to the present day. It also states that Bishqemi's work sheds light on many problems and personalities of cultural, literary life for which it provides detailed analysis in the artistic and theoretical-scientific aspect. The possession of clear and fluent language, speaks also of the high culture of writing. The scientific work is described objectively, as it is written based on knowledge and professional preparation.

4. Conclusion

It can be concluded, that writer and scholar Bishqemi has provided great support to Albanian literature for children and young people, both with his original literary creation, as well as with critical and scholarly works. They all help children, students, teachers and future scholars of Albanian children's literature. Not only the number of book titles, but also their quality, speak about the devotion of the author in literature.

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