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USE OF MAGICAL REALISM ELEMENTS IN "ANTELOPE WOMAN" BY LOUISE ERDRICH

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Annotation

This article deals with the analysis of magical realism elements found in the novel The Antelope Wife by Native American writer Louise Erdrich. The author, drawing on the legends of the Ojibwe tribe of Native Americans, explores the significance of the past for future generations. In the novel, new forms of magical realism elements are created through the features of Ojibwe myths' characters.

Key words: myth, Indian tribes, antilope, woman, elements, characteristic, novel, genre.

In Native American literature, magical realism is a method that combines the magic and the ordinary, reflecting the indigenous worldview in which the spiritual and material worlds are closely intertwined. While myth and reality are often separated in Western literary traditions, the narrative tradition in Native American literature blurs and at the same time connects the boundaries between past and present, human and animal, dream and reality. This approach allows Native American writers to explore themes of identity, national awakening, and culture, and represents a tribute to the oral traditions and literary heritage of their ancestors. [1:45] By incorporating supernatural elements into their works, such as shape-shifting beings, prophetic dreams, and spirits that influence human lives, writers create a literary space where history and myth coexist. In her novel "Antelope Woman" (1998), renowned Native American writer Louise Erdrick (born 1954), uses magical realism to depict the bloody massacres of Native American tribes in Ojibwe mythology and symbols in a modern narrative style.

In Louise Erdrick's novel "The Antelope Woman," elements of magical realism serve as a connecting thread between the spiritual and material worlds. [2:89] This correspondence allows the writer to understand how important the human personality, destiny, and past are in understanding the present. This article focuses on the expression of elements of magical realism in Louise Erdrick's novel "The Antelope Woman" in describing the past of the American Indians.

The first element of magical realism that the writer uses in the novel is the antelope woman, who appears as a mythological character and represents the title of the work. The main character of the novel is Switheart Calico, a woman with magical abilities. She is described as an "antelope woman", that is, a being with both human and supernatural powers. No human can fully possess her. She embodies the mysterious and wild antelope girl of Ojibwe mythology. [3:79] Ojibwe mythology, like traditional Native American stories, portrays the transformation between man and animal as a reality of spiritual significance. Switheart Calico's capture by the white soldier Scranton Roy recalls ancient tales in which men marry mystical women from the animal or spirit worlds, but they are difficult to understand or control. Its association with the antelope signifies a connection to nature, freedom, and the spiritual world, which is one of the main themes in Native American storytelling. [5:83]

In the novel, Switheart Calico is depicted as a mythological character who represents the history, cultural and spiritual world and can remind modern Indians of who they are. It is associated with the antelope, and this sacred animal is interpreted as a wild and supernatural being. Her origins are

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shrouded in mystery, and she has a great influence on the lives of those around her, especially Scranton Roy, who forcibly made her his wife. Like the heroes of Native American mythology, he stands for freedom. At the same time, this heroine is a woman who is able to combine human and supernatural characteristics. Her association with Ojibwe legends and his eventual return to nature suggest that he is an uncontrollable being.

As noted above, the mythological origin of Switheart Calico reflects her connection to the antelope. She is not only a human-like hero, but also a creature that embodies the wild and changeable spirit of nature. The antelope is often depicted in Native American myths as a symbol of spiritual freedom, and Switheart Calico's connection to it confirms her mythological nature.

The mythological roots of the image of Switheart Calico are based on the myth of the "woman in the form of an animal" in Native American culture. In the novel, Scranton Roy Switheart captures Calico in the same way as in ancient legends in which men marry mysterious women from the animal or spirit world. In such traditional stories, the captive woman can never be fully possessed, always keeping secrets and refusing to conform to domestic life. This reflects a common idea in Native American folklore that supernatural beings cannot be controlled by human desires.

As a mythological character, Switheart Calico possesses supernatural powers. Throughout the novel, she exerts a strange, almost magical influence on those around her. She disrupts the lives of the Roy family. Her presence brings both love and chaos, and demonstrates how mythological creatures can change human lives in unexpected ways. As a result, Switheart Calico is unable to fulfill the duties of a Native American woman and cannot adapt to the way of life; she longs for her freedom and a free life. Her eventual return to the wild echoes a theme found in many myths, namely that supernatural creatures must return to their true world. This reflects her position as a mythological character who cannot be fully understood or controlled by humans.

The novel constantly blurs the lines between reality and myth, and expresses the inseparability of the spiritual and material worlds in the Native American worldview. The characters are guided by visions, dreams, and the voices of their ancestors. The era is not the same, but rather the past and present are intertwined. Ancestors and animal spirits influence the lives of the characters, and mysterious events occur, such as the appearance of miraculous dogs. Louise Erdrick uses animals as symbols, depicting them as guides or as symbols of transformation. Dogs are especially interpreted as important spiritual messengers, for example, creating the image of dogs that travel through time and connect generations. The antelope, on the other hand, is a symbol of freedom, femininity, and the wild spirit, all of which are skillfully embodied in the image of Switheart Calico.

Louise Erdrick's narrative style draws on the storytelling traditions of her Ojibwe tribe, which allows for the development of magical elements within the novel. The tradition of storytelling plays an important role in the novel, and the stories are marked by magical power. The characters retell and change the stories, which shows how myth and reality complement each other.

In conclusion, the novel "Antelope Woman" through magical realism denies the concepts of reality and time in Western literature. The novel shows that myth, ancestral life, and everyday life are closely intertwined. L. Erdrick, in her work, effectively uses elements of Ojibwe folklore and magical realism, expresses the great importance of the past for the American Indians of the present.

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