

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FATHER AND SON IN THE SHORT STORY “REUNION”

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Annotatsiya: Bu maqola buyuk yozuvchi John Cheeverning “Qayta birlashish” hikoyasidagi ota va o’g’il munosabatini ko’rsatib beradi. Bundan tashqari, maqola bu hikoyada qo’llanilgan stilistik vositalarni ham ko’rsatadi.

Kalit so’zlar: munosabat, hikoyachi, vulgarizm, stilistik vositalar.

Аннотация: В данной статье исследуются отношения отца и сына в рассказе «Воссоединение» великого писателя Джона Чеевера. Кроме того, в статье также показаны стилистические приемы, использованные в этом рассказе.

Ключевые слова: отношения, рассказчик, вулгаризм, стилистические приемы

Annotation: This article investigates the relationship between father and son in the story "The Reunion" by the great writer John Cheever. In addition, the article also shows the stylistic devices used in this story.

Key words: Relationship, narrator, vulgarism, stylistic devices,

First of all, I am going to introduce the great author of this short story John Cheever. John Cheever lived between 1912-1982. He was an American short-story writer and novelist whose work describes, often through fantasy and ironic comedy, the life, manners, and morals of middle-class suburban America. Cheever has been called “the Chekhov of the suburbs” for his ability to capture the drama and sadness of the lives of his characters by revealing the undercurrents of apparently insignificant events. Known as a moralist, he judges his characters from the standpoint of traditional morality. Cheever’s ability in his short stories to focus on the episodic caused him difficulty in constructing extended narratives in his novels. Nonetheless, his first novel, *The Wapshot Chronicle* (1957)—a satire on, among other subjects, the misuses of wealth and psychology—earned him the National Book Award. Its sequel, *The Wapshot Scandal* (1964), was less successful. *Falconer* (1977) is the dark tale of a drug-addicted college professor who is imprisoned for murdering his brother. *Oh What a Paradise It Seems* (1982) is an elegiac story about a New Englander’s efforts to preserve the quality of his life and that of a mill town’s pond. *The Letters of John Cheever*, edited by his son Benjamin Cheever, was published in 1988, and in 1991 *The Journals of John Cheever* appeared. The latter is deeply revealing of both the man and the writer. Why I choose this story namely “Reunion” because in this story given name is different with its sequences and situations of it. In this case I want to give a brief

summary of this story. In the story, Charlie is a young man traveling through New York from his grandmother's house in the Adirondack mountains to his mother's rented cottage in Cape Cod. During his short layover between trains at Grand Central Station, Charlie is meeting his estranged father for lunch. The narrative voice is retrospective, with an older Charlie looking back on the event. As the story opens, Charlie notes that this is the last time he saw his father and that the noontime lunch meeting was arranged by his father's secretary.

As Charlie spots his father approaching him in the crowd, he recalls that although he has not seen the man in three years since his mother divorced him, he still feels a strong connection to him. With a mixture of joy and foreboding, Charlie sees his father as his future self, noting the man's large frame and good looks. After slapping his son on the back and shaking his hand, Charlie's father states that instead of going to his club to eat, because getting there will take too long, they will go somewhere near the train station. In this moment, Charlie takes in the sight and smell of his father with pride, hoping that people will see them together and wishing that someone would photograph them to record this moment in time. When Charlie and his father arrive at a restaurant on a side street, they sit at a table, the place empty because of the early time. Charlie's father claps his hands and shouts rudely to an elderly waiter, demanding that they are served immediately. He orders two Beefeater Gibsons, a cocktail mixed with gin and dry vermouth. The waiter takes umbrage at being clapped at and says so to Charlie's father, who responds that he should have brought a whistle so the old waiter could hear him better. When he repeats the order in a condescending manner, the waiter quietly and politely tells them to leave. Charlie's father loudly declares this to be a brilliant suggestion and leaves with his son in tow.

They venture into a second restaurant and order the same drinks with less fanfare. Charlie and his father discuss baseball, and then the older man strikes his empty glass, shouting to the waiter for more. When questioned about Charlie's age, his father responds rudely; as a result, the waiter refuses to serve Charlie any more alcohol. In a fit, his father proclaims that there are many other restaurants, pays the bill, and storms out.

In a third restaurant, the waiters wear pink jackets that look like hunting coats, and the walls are decorated with horse tack. As soon as they sit, Charlie's father begins shouting again, this time calling the waiter "Master of the hounds" (519). When he orders the same drinks, he mistakenly asks for Bibson Geefeaters, suggesting he is intoxicated. The waiter catches this error and smiles, causing Charlie's father to respond in a rage that times are changing in England. The waiter duly notes that they are not in England. Again, Charlie's father storms out, calling the waiter an "impudent domestic."

They enter a fourth establishment, which is Italian. Charlie's father begins speaking in Italian, and when the waiter reveals that he does not speak that language, the father mocks him and continues. The manager, or captain, approaches to reveal that this table and all others in the restaurant are reserved, effectively kicking them out.

When they leave, Charlie indicates he must get on his train. His father apologizes and offers to get him a newspaper and walk him back to Grand Central Station. As they stop at the newsstand, the older man barrages the clerk with a string of insults. With growing embarrassment, Charlie insists he must leave and says goodbye, calling his father "Daddy." He gets on his train and repeats that this is the last time he saw his father. especially the last sentence of his words about his father means that he do not want to meet again with his father.

In this story we can see so many usage of stylistic devices. Stylistic devices which are the words which are intended to create literary atmosphere, musical effect and also readers can put in the real situation. For example metaphor, metonymy, simile, irony and etc. Vulgarism also one type of stylistic devices. Author use them in order to create real atmosphere. For example "Buon giorno, Per favore, possiamo avere due cocktail americani, forti. Molto gin, poco vermut". These kinds of words and sentences. These mean "Goof afternoon, Please two Beefeater Gibsons, quickly" in Italian language. Italian restaurant their fourth destination. In the French restaurant also father used French words for example (Gacon Cameriere) it means a male waiter in French language.

Furthermore we can know the setting of this story by this word Grand central station and also author with this words he wanted to symbolize. Cheever uses symbolic elements such as the setting of Grand Central Station, which represents a place of departure and arrival, to underscore the theme of strained relationships and missed connections. What is more, in the story we can observe irony. Irony itself means that the expression of one's meaning by using language that normally signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or emphatic effect. whenever a person says something or does something that departs from what they (or we) expect them to say or do. In the story "Reunion," irony is present in the way the protagonist's expectations are contrasted with the reality of his father's behavior. The protagonist is excited to see his father after a long time, but he is disappointed when his father's behavior turns out to be rude and embarrassing. This creates a sense of irony as the protagonist anticipates a warm and meaningful reunion, only to be met with disappointment and frustration.

Additionally, there is irony in the father's behavior itself. He presents himself as a successful and respected man, but his actions reveal him to be rude, arrogant, and even dishonest. This contrast between appearance and reality creates a sense of irony that adds depth to the story.

So in the end, this story is well-written and author tried to use some kinds of stylistic devices in order to create real atmosphere and also tried to grab readers's attention with them.

The list of used literature

1. "English stylistics" by I.R.Galperin 1962.
2. https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Cheever
3. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/italian-english/cameriere#:~:text=waiter%20%5Bnoun%5D%20a%20person%20who,with%20food%20etc%20at%20table>
4. https://creativewritinghibbert.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/cheever_reunion.pdf