

The 50's . Children's Literature – Communist Means of Education

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Abstract : *The re-reading of the Romanian literature written during the communist regime is indispensable in the Romanian cultural space, mainly because of the fact that until the present moment there have been great hierarchic subversions. The writers' behavioral analysis and that of the writing techniques in the totalitarian period may be included in a veritable history of the Romanian literature.*

Key words: *political regime, children's literature, patriotic education*

The communist ideology has as a starting point the social determinist theory, according to which a person's behavior is not induced by his own individuality but by the class he belongs to. As a result, the education in the spirit of the new communist society becomes compulsory, for it is stated that only this type of society can ensure the development session.

For example, here's the story of N. Mosov: "A small happy family." It is a short story about the happy life that the Soviet children were living back in those times. The main characters of this story are two schoolboys, who have decided to build a brooding, thinking about the great contribution that these broodings bring to the collective and state farms. Thus, in a wonderful language, there are told the adventures of the little boys until the very moment they manage to build the brooding, the nights on the lookout in order to monitor the temperature, and then the harsh scolding from the detachment of pioneers for their having neglected their lessons. How beautiful are the moments when the other colleagues learn about the existence of the brooding and decide to guard it in turns, urging the two boys to pay more attention to their lessons! Then, it is described the joy of that very evening when the first chick hatched. The message that this short story sends towards children's education is to face life with courage and unwavering will, never to complain about shortages, to love and strive since early ages in order to contribute to the flourishing of the country. The Youth Publishing House published Arcadie Gaidar's wonderful story "Timur and his boys" and the dramatization of the story by A. Grosman and A. Goldberg.

There are narrated the exciting happenings in the life of a group of Soviet children, who, understanding how much grimness and self-sacrifice are needed in order to protect their country and defeat the fascist invaders, find excellent ways to contribute with their forces to battle against the enemy. They organize themselves so as to help the families of the Soviet soldiers who went to war manage the household while their parents are fighting for their Socialist homeland. Where else could Timur and his friends grow up, if not in a state of happiness, of a bright future unfolding continuously? Timur's simple and glorious motto is the motto of a Soviet man, perfectly in control of his life and future: "If you are convinced that justice is on your side, may you not be afraid of anything in the world."

In the field of historical biographies, the Youth Publishing House published the story of N. Muratov: "Towards distant shores". In this story, it is described the travel of a Russian merchant, Afanasie Nichitin, who was the first to cross the road to India, before the Portuguese Vasco de Gama. In the book there are mirrored the Middle East life, the poverty of the people in contrast to the rich palaces of the sultans. Afanasie Nichitin loves his Russia, recalls his wonderings on foreign lands far away from his homeland, considering it far more beautiful than any other country in the world. Muratov's story urges children to love traveling, history, first of all to cherish their motherland and fight for its flourishing.

The Youth Publishing House translated a short story also belonging to the Soviet children's literature. It is a story about the life of a Soviet child named "Vasca, Bobca and the Rabbit". The main educational message that is sent through this short story consists of the following ideas: the special care for the received task, the concern to carry it out successfully. As a result, the Youth Publishing House will have to be concerned, in the field of translations, with choosing the most representative works of Soviet literature for children. They'll have to translate the verses of Marşac or Barto in Mihacolv creations, from the Soviet fairy-tale writers.

A wonderful initiative of the Youth Publishing House was the reprinting of our classics' literature. Thus, the beauty of Mihai Eminescu's fairy-tale "Price Charming of Tear" is available for children in an exquisite edition. After a while Creanga's fairy-tale appears: "The White Moor".

From the progressive universal literature, the Youth Publishing House has translated a passage of the novel "The Miserable" by Victor Hugo. It is the story of the little boy named Gavroche, the child of Paris, the city where the road is crossed only in elegant carriages, with saloons full of feasts, but which he doesn't belong to. He belongs to the Paris in which the small and cramped houses hide, where the ordinary, the oppressed people live, with peripheral narrow streets haunted by hunger and poverty. The little Gavroche loves honesty, truth, and all the people endowed with these qualities. He wonders the city streets with shinning eyes, hoping for a better life. Therefore, when Paris rebelled in 1830, together with the whole nation who could not endure the bitter treatment of the bourgeoisie, Gavroche fights heroically with all his youth enthusiasm. When the enemy bullets' hit him, Gavroche dies with this song on his lips:

"Beat on the drums! For the light of dawn rises! "

The parable of the brave and courageous little boy, Gavroche, is very instructive for the children in our country.

In the field of original literature, the Youth Publishing House has not yet taken an important step. Until now it was only one book that has been published: "Come on, guess who?" by I.Mihail. Under the form of versified questions, there are described a range of objects and animals, that are usually more acknowledged by children. The book is addressed to very young children; still it should have contained themes such as: the theme of work and heroism. The descriptions are too static and do not urge children to learn about the things they are told about. It can't be seen the human contribution through work, through perseverance when creating objects and domesticating the animals described.

In the field of original literature for children, the Youth Publishing House has still serious shortcomings. There haven't been published books about work and pioneers game, about our collective households, the beauty of our country. The Youth Publishing House has to develop the genuine spirit of our original literature for children, so as to contribute significantly to the communist education of the younger generation. The Youth Publishing House will have to edit books for children about life, work and concerns of working people, youth workers of our country. The publishing house will have to proceed boldly to publish fairy tales, fantasy stories to develop courage, initiative and manhood. Children's fantasy literature shows how powerful the notion of good is when fighting with audacity, how helpless becomes evil when drove away with courage. The misinterpreted orientation of the publishing house which chose to avoid fantastic literature has come out in the translations of Soviet literature. Until now, the Youth Publishing House did not publish any fairy tale or a Soviet miraculous story.

The Youth Publishing House should not only confine to the role of control and supervision of the ready written works for children. It must itself become an engine of literary activity for children. By gathering all the writers around the publishing house, it

can suggest the most appropriate subjects to continuously support the creative work of writers and contribute to the early organization of the healthy development of children's literature.

Between 1948 and 1953 there have been initiated the most serious anti-national actions in our entire history: the extermination of the elite, the indoctrination of the population, the infliction of behavioral and reasoning pattern out of the tradition, the Russification and Sovietization of the lifestyle, the governmental purge, the murder or the marginalization of an overwhelming number of writers, the destruction, the burning and indexing of the most important books of the Romanian literature, the ideological influence over culture, literature and art, the quasi-total isolation from the Western world and European cultural phenomenon. The entire literature and culture becomes subordinate to politics, thus being converted into an instigation and propaganda tool. After the setting up of the communist regime, culture is subordinated to politics, while the most important publishing houses are printing only the books that are included in the Sovietization program. There have been an established list of publications, selected works and authors that were allowed to be published and lists with prohibited papers and writers that were supposed to be drawn off the cultural space. The libraries have been invaded by translations from Russian literature, Russian films have flooded the screens and newspapers were put under a strict ideological control. Novelistic fiction (prose in general) is transformed into an ideological guide for educating the masses from early ages. Education will be done in the spirit of renovation and reinvention of the world, which belongs entirely to the party's guiding social life.

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