

### **The influence of Shakespeare on English language**

William Shakespeare's influence extends from theatre and literature to present-day movies and the English language itself. He is widely regarded as the greatest writer of the English language, and the world's pre-eminent dramatist.

The influence of William Shakespeare's writings on the English language can perhaps best be seen in the many common words and phrases he invented. Some of the 1,700 English words Shakespeare invented include: 'accommodate', 'generous', 'premeditated' and 'suspicious'. He devised phrases such as 'break the ice', 'catch a cold' [3]. Many Shakespeare's original phrases are still used in conversation and language today. These include: "seen better days, full circle, a story sight" and "strange bedfellows". Shakespeare helped to further develop style and structure to an otherwise loose, spontaneous language. While the lack of prescribed grammatical rules introduced vagueness in literature, it also expressed feelings with profound vividness and emotions which created "freedom of expression" and "vividness of presentment". It was language which expressed feelings explicitly [1].

Shakespeare's characters have become paradigms for thinking about certain situations and emotions: a manipulator is Lady Macbeth, lovers in bad circumstances are Romeo and Juliet, a brooding person is Hamlet [1]. Liveliness of the language and strict discipline of Shakespeare's sonnets imparted economy and intensity to his writing style. Complex human emotions found simple expressions in Shakespeare's language.

Shakespeare has influenced on many novelists such as Charles Dickens and Herman Melville. Melville's Captain Ahab in "Moby Dick" is a classic tragic hero, inspired by King Lear. Shakespeare has also inspired many painters, including the Romantics and the Pre-Raphaelites [2].

If William Shakespeare had not demonstrated such a mastery words as he did, he certainly would not have influenced the English language so robustly. His ability to formulate new, popular words and maintain an extensive vocabulary positively defines him as a "man of words". Shakespeare's work, however, also provides countless instances of the way English was developing all the time and illustrations from his poems and plays are unavoidable in any discussion of contemporary pronunciation, word formation, syntax, or language use. In return, the studies of Renaissance language in general have contributed many insights into Shakespeare's own use of language.

#### **Литература**

1. Bate, Jonathan. *The Soul of the Age*. — London: Penguin, 2008.
2. Wells, Stanley. *Shakespeare & Co*. — New York: Pantheon, 2006.
3. Wood, Michael. *Shakespeare*. — New York: Basic Books, 2003.