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THE STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE THE AMERICAN DREAM IN WILLA CATHER'S MY ANTONIA

БОРЬБА ЗА ДОСТИЖЕНИЕ АМЕРИКАНСКОЙ МЕЧТЫ В РОМАНЕ УИЛЛЫ КЭСЕР «МОЯ АНТОНИЯ»

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Abstract: The American Dream is a set of ideals, both spiritual and material, that include rights and freedoms for citizens and equality that every individual strives to achieve. In the novel "Antonia," there are several characters striving to achieve the American Dream, among them the main characters: Antonia Shimerda, Jim Burden, and Lena Lingard. They all had difficult childhoods and hardships, but they cling to the hope of a better life, complete prosperity through work, despite the harsh hardships they face. But for them, hope is what drives them to pursue their dreams.

Key words: American dream, ideals, harsh trials of life, well-being, work.

Аннотация: Американская мечта — это набор идеалов, как духовных, так и материальных, которые включают права и свободы граждан и равенство,

к достижению которого стремится каждый человек. В романе «Антония» есть несколько персонажей, стремящихся к достижению Американской мечты, среди них главные герои: Антония Шимерда, Джим Берден и Лена Лингард. У всех них было трудное детство и трудности, но они цепляются за надежду на лучшую жизнь, полное благополучие через работу, несмотря на суровые трудности, с которыми они сталкиваются. Но для них надежда — это то, что побуждает их следовать за своими мечтами.

Ключевые слова: Американская мечта, идеалы, суровые испытания жизни, благополучие, труд.

Willa Cather's novel "My Antonia", written in 1918 and translated into Russian in 1979, tells the story of the lives and destinies of immigrants to the United States, as well as their desire for a better life, freedom and independence, and adaptation to a new life. Jim Shimerda is one of the main characters in the novel "My Antonia". His example can be used to examine the desire for a better life and the search for one's place in the world. Jim was born into a family of American pioneers and grew up on a rural farm. His parents were representatives of immigrants who faced great difficulties typical of life on the frontier. At the age of ten, Jim was orphaned and was then raised by his grandparents. His story begins with him living in an ordinary, unremarkable environment, where a better life and dreams seemed unattainable [1].

Jim very often had connections and was friends with immigrant girls, that threatened his social status and contradictions were brewing. Jim always dreamed of more than career that would bring him wealth, satisfaction, love, faithfulness in his life that would be full of adventures and travels. Jim was quite a smart, cheerful and beloved guy. He graduated from school with honors, and then from college. All of Jim's desires and dreams became his driving force on the path to a better life. One of the important events in Jim's life is his friendship with Antonia, the daughter of Czech immigrants. Their relationship develops throughout the novel, pursuing various difficulties. Jim and Antonia have different views on life, achieving their dreams, use different approaches to life, which complicates their communication and

the development of relationships, but despite this, their connection remains strong, and none of the characters is broken by this situation. Despite the absence of parents, Jim is quite a persistent and advanced guy, although he has repeatedly faced his fears and doubts. He was afraid of failure, that his dreams would never come true. These feelings helped the reader to penetrate deeper into Jim's problem and sympathize with him, as they are familiar to many. One of the important steps for Burden is the actions he takes to achieve his goal. Jim understood that he needed to act, so he began to acquire new skills and meet people who could have valuable information, communicated with them and looked for opportunities to realize his dreams [2].

From an early age, Jim understood that life on the frontier has many difficulties and hardships, so he received an education, which later opened up new opportunities for them and helps to break out of the circles of rural life. His desire to learn, develop and grow reflects his hope for a better future. Studying helps Jim raise his economic and social status. Jim, unlike Antonia, loved freedom very much and strove for a wide life. As we can see from the story that different approach was used to fulfilling the "American dream", for Jim - this is his education, career, inner strength. And for Antonia - this is a connection with nature, hobbies and home. After working on the farm and moving, Jim began to work in different areas, including in the office, which shows his desire for growth, improving his situation.

At the end of the novel, Jim returns to Nebraska and becomes a writer. This symbolizes his love for his native places and the people he grew up with. Burden actively developed his literary abilities, used knowledge, experience, to create something interesting and significant. Thus, we see that despite the difficulties in life, friendship, love relationships, Jim achieved what he wanted, realized his ambitions, found his place in this world, as a result of which he fulfilled the "American dream".

Lene Lingard is another central character in the novel "My Antonia". She is a young immigrant who lived in the Norwegian settlement west of the creek and did not live in a rich family. Lene usually helped her father graze the cattle between their family plot and the Shimerda field. She was a girl with simple hair, barefoot, barely

covered with some rags; she loved to knit, looking after the cattle. Those who did not know Lene thought that she was a savage and a closed person, but Lene is a very sociable girl with a soft and quiet voice. Usually, girls who herded cattle became rude. Lene caught all the people who got to know her better with her charm and openness. She was not embarrassed by her disheveled blond hair and torn clothes, and Lene's eyes were quite rare - the color of a dark violet.

Lena's father was unlucky with the farm, and the family was quite large, so Lena tried her best to help her father. She knitted socks for her sisters and brothers without interruption, helped around the house and with the cattle. People talked about Lena, there were even rumors that she made eyes at married men, that made many Norwegian women angry at the girl, but Lena treated this situation calmly, laughed and treated everyone kindly. The girl grew up in conditions that are typical for many immigrant families, this helped Lena form her character and life principles. Lena was a close friend of Antonia Shimerda, this shows the presence of humanity, support among women and the ability to lend a helping hand in difficult times. Soon Lena got tired of grazing cattle every day, not having many of the benefits of life, so she strives for independence and decides to leave her parents' home in order to start a new life, find her place and fulfill the "American dream".

Having moved to the USA, the girl found a job as a seamstress and strives for well-being, thereby becoming financially independent. In the city, she becomes a woman who is respected and considered successful by the people. Thus, Lena achieved success, fulfilled her dream, despite the many difficulties on her way. She shows that each person can have their own "American dream" and it depends on personal circumstances, but if you want, you can fulfill any dream and achieve success through hard work.

The next central character of the novel "My Antonia" is Antonia Shimerda. She is the personification of the spirit and strength of immigrants, shows their resilience, faith and love for their roots. Antonia is a strong girl, with a rather attractive appearance. She is tall, with rather bright facial features, dark-haired.

Antonia tried in every possible way to show her appreciation for the traditions and customs, the culture of her people, so she even braided her hair, which showed a connection with the people and the homeland. Antonia always had a determined expression on her face. The girl was dressed quite simply, but always suitable for working on the farm and around the house [9].

Here you can see that Antonia is a very hard-working girl. Antonia's family immigrated from the Czech Republic to the United States in search of a better life. The girl often faced difficulties in both the old and the new city. Antonia's father worked on the land, was engaged in agriculture and cattle breeding, the girl always helped her father, thereby acquiring work skills, understanding the importance of work in the world. After moving, Antonia also works on the farm, and later begins to develop her own farm, which speaks of her independence. She is not afraid of hard work, overcomes all difficulties and clings to every opportunity to achieve her goal. In addition, the girl strove for education and self-improvement, despite the fact that education was quite difficult for women at that time. Despite the desire for freedom and independence, Antonia is deeply attached to her family. Antonia faced the loss of her mother and father, economic difficulties, but nothing broke the girl and did not stop her aspirations on the way to the American dream.

In addition, the girl experiences a lot of emotions in her personal life, since her relationship with Jim was complicated and although there was a strong connection between them, the young people could not be together. But all these losses only further shaped Antonia's character, emphasized her resilience and determination [5]. Thus, the American dream is the belief that any person can rise from the bottom, regardless of their social status and role, regardless of where they live, and can achieve success in life. The American dream will be different for each person and will reflect their own ideas about the future, but most often - the desire for a better life through hard work. We see this in the example of the three central characters, whose American dream is presented through the prism of the lives of immigrants and the desire for a better life in the United States. In the novel "My Antonia", Jim,

Antonia and Lene strove for personal freedom, a good reputation and the opportunity to achieve success and recognition through hard work. Each of the characters succeeded and they fulfilled their "American dream"[7].

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