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PORTRAITURE – A NECESSARY MEANS OF EXPRESSION

Portraiture is a necessary means of characterizing a personage and creating literary images. In most cases the appearance of a character and his/her spiritual world are interrelated. Often the innermost nature of a human being determines the appearance.

Portraiture usually means the art of portrayal, the depiction in words of a personage's figure, eye and brows, mouth and teeth, hair and beard, clothing etc. Writers can make use of other complementary objects: a cigarette, cigar-case, cane, and beads etc.

Sometimes verbal portraits are provided in full-length at one time. In other cases authors develop the picture gradually furnishing it according to the plot line.

Traditionally literary studies distinguish two types of portraits: positive and negative. A personage with handsome appearance usually reveals positive characters and those of ugly appearance are associated with negative ones. It is noteworthy that inner qualities serve the decisive sign for the outward look and not the vice versa.

Various fictions have exemptions in which the portrait of the personage and his/her inner world are in contrast relationship. The handsome may have negative personality and the positive character can be wrapped up in the ugly appearance.

Portraits also may correspond to particular mood of a personage at the certain stage of its development i.e. at a certain period of his/her life this or that appearance can prove more necessary.

This paper discusses examples of the portraiture from the Georgian classics.