

GENRE OF THE ESSAY: THEORY AND PRACTICE

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Aldous Huxley, a leading essayist, defined the essay as *a literary device for saying almost everything about almost anything.*

Essays are divided into:

1. philosophical;
2. literary-critical;
3. historical;
4. artistic and journalistic and others.

According to the second approach, there are such types of essays as:

illustration;

narration;

description;

process analysis;

definition;

division and classification;

comparison and contrast;

cause and effect;

argument [1].

In spite of the fact that the essay is written as a free composition, it has several structural features.

The main elements of the essay are the following:

thesis;

unity;

organization;

beginning and endings;

paragraphs;

transitions;

effective sentences [1].

All these elements are very important to a well-written essay. For example:

1. At the beginning of every essay there is an introduction which contains the topic and emphasizes the subject of the essay.

2. Every idea of the essay must be formatted as a separate paragraph.

3. Paragraphs of the essay can be short (S), medium (M) and large (L). A well-written essay has the following order of letters: M S M L M S.

4. The structure of the essay must be logical, all the paragraphs disclosing the main idea.

5. To sum up the opinion of the author a conclusion must be drawn at the end of the essay.

The example of one of the essays is given below:

A DREAM

It was a gloomy rainy afternoon.

A red bus was moving along the road. Every day it followed its route and drove people wherever they wanted. Every day it passed by the same cozy café and saw the same man, sitting next to the window, inside.

“If I were a man, I could go to the warm cozy café”, - the bus was dreaming about it. – “I would listen to the gentle music of rain, drink hot tea and read interesting magazines”.

Then it passed by a couple of bus stops and thought sadly:

“But my real life is boring and grey. No café, no tea, no magazines. Only this nasty rain and noisy people inside me”.

The bus thought that its life was colorless.

At the same time, a man in the café ordered a cup of hot black tea and opened his favorite magazine.

He loved soft rustle of the pages and the smell of ink. His magazine seemed to be a living thing, his only real friend.

The man looked into the window and saw the red bus.

“If I were a bus, I would drive everywhere”, - the man was dreaming about it. – “I would see so many interesting things! I would get warm under the cheerful sun or cool under the playful rain. I would listen to so many interesting people talking. I would help them to get wherever they wanted”!

He made a sip of tea and thought:

“But my real life is boring and grey. No interesting things, no interesting people”.

The man thought that his life was colorless.

The only one that wasn't dreaming about anything at that time, was hot black tea. It knew that its life was a brief instant and was simply enjoying it, exuding its fragrance all over the café...

It is a surprise, isn't it?

So, describing the essence and peculiarities of essays it is necessary to mention their great importance that is very well formulated by Dmitrovskiy A. L. He writes that: “After all, the essay helps a person in finding the sense of his life. It becomes a “guiding thread”, a “lighthouse”, a “place of privacy” and “quiet contemplation” and “self-awareness” for him” [2].

REFERENCES

1. Models for writers. Short essays for composition. Ed. by Alfred Rosa, Paul Eschholz. – New York, 1992. - 462p.

2. Дмитрировский А. Л. Эссе как жанр публицистики: дис. ... канд. филол. наук. — СПб., 2002. — 23 с.