

SURREALISTIC EXPERIMENTS OF DAVID GASCOYNE

The article is dedicated to surrealist works of the British poet David Gascoyne, study of the principles of surrealism in literature and linguistic aspects of surrealist poetry written in English.

The main credit for the development of theoretical ideas of surrealism belongs to the French poet Andre Breton and his group who were the first to study the unconscious. In the first Manifesto Breton defined surrealism as pure **psychic automatism dictated by thought in the absence of any control exercised by reason, free of any aesthetic or moral concern.**

For Gascoyne, surrealism was an attractive force. It didn't define all his poetry, still was a serious step in development, especially in his works of 1933-1936. Gascoyne's collection of poems «Man's Life is This Meat» manifests the characteristics of the French Surrealist poetics – irrational stream of images, tricks of imagination. Some poems follow the motifs of paintings by famous artists (Salvador Dali, Yves Tanguy, René Magritte) and sound like fantasies on the themes of art. Other poems – are classic surrealist “plunges” into dreams and reveries, they merge the fantastic and the real worlds into a single unity.

On the linguistic level, we can observe that the poems have correct grammar, impeccable syntax, the poet generally avoids new, bookish or abstract words and feels free in the use of punctuation. The most valuable attribute of surrealist poetry is a visual image, created by specific metaphors, metonymy, a particular choice of words that generates certain mood. Streams of arbitrary visual images, deep emotion, analogy with the works of art – these are the characteristic features of David Gascoyne's surrealist poetry.