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#### IN THE WORLD OF ENGLISH LIMERICKS

**Dilnoza jaksulikova** Master's student at KSU

**Sarsenbaeva Tolg'anay** Teacher at a high school number 21

#### Bawetdinova Gulparshin

Faculty of Karakalpak philology and journalism 3- year student

*Annotation:* The main goal of this article is to study the foreignb culture folk art and analyse the limericks of English literature. In this article given some information about foreign limericks and their structure.

Keywords: Folk art, limerick, English humorous, Internet, witty poem, popularity.

One way to study a foreign culture is to study and analyze folk art. The folk art of the Englishspeaking countries is vividly represented by limericks - funny, witty five-line verses that were popular in the 18th century. In the course of the study, we found sites on the Internet [4,5] dedicated to limericks, which contain five lines by modern authors, which allows us to conclude that interest in such a genre of literary creativity as "limerick" has not faded to this day.

The main goal of our work is to study the historical, structural and content features of limerick as a special form of English humorous verse. To achieve this goal, it was necessary to solve the following tasks: – Determine what a limerick is; – learn the history of limerick origin; – to identify the features of the limerick structure; - get acquainted with the peculiarities of the interpretation of English limericks;

Limerick is a form of short, humorous, witty poem that originated in the UK and is based on playing around with nonsense. Limerick is a nonsense rhyme. It is almost impossible to know who was the creator of the first limerick. It is generally accepted that the roots of this genre are in folklore. The first published limericks are contained in the fifth section of the collection of English folk poems, rhymes and songs for children, Mother Goose Rhymes, first published in England at the end of the 18th century. But the "father" of limerick is called the famous English poet, the king of English nonsense poetry, Edward Lear. At the beginning of the 20th century, limerick gained even more popularity and migrated to the pages of magazines and newspapers, to advertising publications.

Limerick is a form of humorous, comic verse of absurd content (nonsense verse), usually written in a consisting of 5 lines, while the 1st, 2nd and 5th lines are tripartite, and the 3rd and 4th I am bipedal. The first two lines are closely related to each other: they are the same in duration, similar in accent-melodic structure (characterized by a rather calm descending melodic contour), separated by a short pause. The third and fourth lines, also closely related, form the second couplet. The tempo of these lines is somewhat accelerated, and the descending melody has a less calm (more precisely, indented) character. The last line (it contains the salt of the limerick), although the longest, is pronounced at a fast pace, at a low tonal level and sounds deliberately dull. This design enhances the humorous effect. Limericks in this respect are similar to a joke, where the essence lies in the last phrase, which the narrator often strives to utter dully. The rhyming scheme is set once and for all (rhyme is sound



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repeated consonances at the end of poetic lines): A-A-B-A You can, of course, use another scheme, but then it will not be a limerick, but just a poem of five lines.

Let's take one of Edward Lear's limericks as an illustration:

There was an old man with a beard

Who said, 'It is just as I feared. A

Two owls and a hen. B

Four larks and a wren B

Have oil built their nests in my beard!'

And the comedy in a limerick is achieved by the meaninglessness of the content or the absurdity of the behavior of the characters described in it. But although the limerick is based on absurdity, nonsense, this nonsense either must be logically organized, or, having no obvious logic of presentation, must nevertheless contain some, albeit absurd, meaning. Limericks usually describe an incident that happened to someone, somewhere. A prerequisite for this is the comedy of what is happening, and humor is usually understood in the English style, some eccentricity, paradoxically, irony - all this is highly appreciated. In traditional, classic limericks, the storyline usually unfolds in the first line and continues in the second. The first defines the hero (gentleman, old man, lady, etc.), usually characterized by the words "some", "young", "old", etc., and gives his location (initially it was some place in England, Scotland, Ireland, but subsequently the geography of limericks expanded). Therefore, a limerick usually starts with a there is/was construction.

In general, the traditional beginning of a classic limerick might be, for example: There was an old lady of Dublin... In Russian, this would also look similar, for example: An elderly lady from Bath... The second line introduces some interesting a feature of the hero: There was a Young Lady whose nose Was so long that it reached to her toes... In this case, we mean the long nose of the lady, reaching (literally) to her toes. The third and fourth lines are short, they tell about unexpected and sometimes incredible events (in the example below, about a man who added mice to his porridge for taste): But to make it more nice, He inserted some mice ... And finally, the fifth line , the "salt" of the limerick, is the longest and funniest.

In a classic limerick, it is traditionally a modified first, ending in the same word (usually the scene):

There was a young lady of Bute... (1st line)

That amusing, young lady of Bute... (5th line)

The range of topics of limerick humor is endless - from politics and the latest scientific discoveries to scenes from the life of a simple layman. Traditionally, English quintuples are classified into five themes:

- ✓ Incredible adventures, jokes the most popular topic;
- $\checkmark$  the child and the adult world
- $\checkmark$  the problem of excess weight;
- ✓ animals;
- ✓ school life;

The heroes and heroines of limericks are eccentrics and eccentrics who violate the generally accepted rules of behavior. Limericks have their own special world of strange action and nonsense. Limerick heroes eat the most unexpected dishes, walk on stilts, change into women's clothes, hire respectable



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ladies to wear unusually large noses. There is nothing here that is found in life. Here they don't pretend, they don't mean, they don't humiliate themselves, they don't hypocrite, they don't fear illness and death, they don't tremble before what people say. Limerick is a country where they are not afraid to be themselves, to do and say what they want. True, sometimes some impersonal characters appear in limericks who do not like the behavior of eccentrics. They threaten them with violence, and sometimes carry out their threats. The limerick writer's sympathies are always on the side of his eccentrics. Heroes of limericks constantly communicate with the animal world. Birds, fish, insects, horses, cows, and others enter into the most intimate relationship with the characters. Birds build their nests in the beards of old men and on the hats of ladies; characters dance with birds, visit fish, take care of them, etc.

Based on the results of our work, we can conclude that the limerick has features of form, structure and humor. Limericks are little humorous masterpieces. Limerick is attractive with a bizarre play of mind, word and sound. If you have a free moment, arrange a "vacation" for your soul and mind and compose your own limerick. We are sure that, having become acquainted with the "poems of nonsense", you will appreciate them.

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