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SOME FACTS ABOUT FANTASY WORLD

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Article history:		Abstract:
Accepted:	26 th September 2023 26 th October 2023 30 th November 2023	The idea of writing this article arose because of the current discussions. Also, science fiction and fantasy are my favorite genres, they have absolutely unlimited possibilities for expressing different ideas and huge creative potential. I often work with such texts these days. Therefore, I would like to clarify the situation as much as possible.

Keywords: fantasy, fiction, science fiction, history, their differences, myth, fairy tales, reality, unreality, "golden age", space opera, steampunk, cyberpunk, alternative history, chrono-opera, dystopia, action fiction

The idea of writing this article arose because of the current discussions. Also, science fiction and fantasy are my favorite genres, they have absolutely unlimited possibilities for expressing different ideas and huge creative potential. I often work with such texts these days. Therefore, I would like to clarify the situation as much as possible.

"The world of fantasy is a parallel world "from somewhere or when" to our world, or an event that took place in a conditional existence, deprived of geographical and temporal precision." It would not be wrong to say that many readers are still confused by a number of questions or arguing about terminology. "Is fantasy part of science fiction? Which one appeared first? What is the difference between science fiction and fantasy?' You may be witnessing such questions. It is no secret that at the heart of fiction lies the fantastic assumption - the device by which the author tells the story, the individual elements of which cannot exist or happen in the real world, and often contradict it. The difference between these genres is that their roots and origins are completely different. Science fiction is born from people's dreams of amazing scientific and technical discoveries that can change their lives. This is why science and technology are at the forefront of science fiction. It is they that allow us to change reality, open new worlds and amazing human abilities. No matter how fantastical the worlds described and the creatures that inhabit them may be, science fiction always emphasizes realism, and any unusualness is shown to exist based on scientifically based and strict laws. Fantasy, on the other hand, is based on legends and fairy tales, which are actually modified myths. In them, the central place is occupied by ancient magic - such as the ability of people to influence the environment with

the help of spells and charms. Fantasy includes all the oldest beliefs of mankind. For example, animism - the belief in supernatural beings - gives rise to myths about spirits and demons, restless spirits and ghosts. And at the same time, the idea of the ability of people to turn into animals formed the basis of the legends about werewolves.¹

All classical fantasy is based on Western European legends, in which elves and dwarves, fairies and dragons are the characters of the plot. The founder of European fantasy J.R. Before writing his books, Tolkien did a great deal of research into mythology.

At this point, I would like to say that I paid special attention to the history of the birth of science fiction. Jules Verne, Herbert Wells and other authors of the late 19th and early 20th centuries gave a great impetus to the development of the genre, they were not afraid to look into the future and included elements of science in their works. The first half of the 20th century was the golden age of classic science fiction.

It was at that time that Isaac Asimov, Robert Heinlein, Arthur Clarke, Ray Bradbury showed themselves - although many of their books were published after the "golden age" officially ended. Later, science fiction is divided into various subtypes and directions, such as science fiction, space opera, steampunk, cyberpunk, alternative history, chrono-opera, dystopia, action fiction, social, philosophical, and so on. And fantasy is a little different, on the one hand, this genre grew on the basis of myths and ancient epics, and it is based not on a fantastic assumption, but on a completely surreal approach to what is happening in the work. In other words, the stories of the fantasy genre may show a completely different world with its own laws, which cannot be explained from the point of view of science.

https://magazines.gorky.media/nlo/2005/1/fentezi-2004-m-2004-fentezi-2005-m-2004.html.

¹ Строева К. Фэнтези – М., – 2004. Тупики и выходы // НЛО. №71. –[Электронный ресурс]:



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However, the main difference between fantasy and science fiction is magic. If in fantasy it is customary to at least pretend that the "unreal" elements are reasonable, even if it is as far from science and realism as possible, then a lot can happen "with magic".

As the genre developed, works based on other mythological systems appeared. For example, M. Semenova's books are in East Slavic, and A. Sapkovsky's in West Slavic. "Thunder in Beznachale". Nowadays, many books have been written in the fantasy genre, the authors of which have invented their true nature, their own magical laws and fantasy worlds. A subgenre has also appeared - modern mystical tales, legends, urban fantasy based on legends. As it turns out, fiction is based on dreams and fantasy is based on fairy tales. I must emphasize that these two genres are very close to each other, but not the same.

Fantasy and science fiction have a number of things in common, and they differ from realistic literature. At first glance, everything seems clear, but sometimes a question arises. So, the main difference between these two genres from realism, and at the same time what unites them, is the presence of fantasy assumptions. That is, such an idea, fact (artifact) phenomenon that does not correspond to our usual reality is not part of realistic literature.

The assumption of fantasy, at first glance, may not be very significant, but it fundamentally changes the reality that the author describes. For example, in the novel "Amphibian Man" by A. Belyaev, the placement of shark shells on a person, such an imaginary hypothesis - the plot develops in an absolutely fantastic way. Or it is enough to give an example that the door to another world opens behind the door of an old closet, and the heroes of the work find themselves in a wonderful fairytale land called Narnia. Fantasy is also a genre in fiction and art, which is characterized by breaking the boundaries of reality, depicting fantasy worlds. Modern fantasy encompasses many genres, including horror and magical realism. Fantasy is a genre of science fiction based on the use of mythological and fairy tale motifs. The fantasy world is characterized by magical creatures (wizards, elves, gnomes, dragons) and supernatural phenomena. The fundamental difference between the wonders of fantasy and their fairy-tale counterparts is that they are the norm of the depicted world and act as systematically as the laws of nature. On the other hand, fantasy is the smallest genre of science fiction. It has historically been so that it is often distinguished from other science fiction and has a number of types, for example, within fantasy there are many subgenres and directions: epic, heroic, detective, funny, techno-fantasy.

Another factor in the isolation of fantasy is the high demand among readers. It is worth noting that the paths of fans of science fiction and fantasy may not cross. Some purposefully read only about "magic and dragons", others need starships, robots or the latest scientific inventions. And it is convenient for everyone to distinguish one from the other. However, of course, many readers are happy to receive books from both directions.

In conclusion, I'm all for free-flowing fantasy. The main thing is that it is interesting, reliable and obeys the laws that the author has set for himself.

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