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Introduction

Purpose is to prove William Shakespeare's existence in real life.

Tasks:

1. Get acquainted with different investigator's versions about W. Shakespeare's personality and creative works;
2. Identify controversial facts of the W. Shakespeare's autobiography;
3. Analyze facts of the W. Shakespeare's autobiography and proposed hypotheses;
4. Make a conclusion of the result investigation.

Hypothesis: William Shakespeare was real person, who created extraordinary compositions of literature.

Description:

We think the investigation of the W. Shakespeare's question is actual nowadays. W. Shakespeare was living 4 centuries ago, but investigators are still considering authorship of the Shakespeare's pieces. England is famous for its traditions and it repudiates any hypotheses about «unreal» W. Shakespeare. Somebodies have wanted to appropriate Shakespeare's pieces to different people, but all the attempts were received with formidable resistance by England specialists in literature. William Shakespeare is a talented, famous playwright. It is not surprising, that somebodies wanted to slander him, that is, he is one of the famous and genial in the world's culture. We want to prove existence of one of the most mystical playwrights, whose name is W. Shakespeare, to prove that he is an author of these pieces. And we wish to maintain foundations of the world's culture.

What would one of the most mysterious playwrights say? He was the most mysterious at the turn of the 16-17 centuries. No one could take off the mask of uncertainty and glorify him as befits the greatest. «So plans perish on a large scale, which promised to be successful at the beginning»-this is also from him, but it is not about him. «Could he manipulate us, because he is the author of the strange, complex pieces...»? He has never stopped amazing people of the breadth and depth of his thoughts for the last four centuries. We described wonderful, magnificent William Shakespeare. Shakespeare doesn't die, because his name is carved in the rock under the eternity. But the question «Who is Shakespeare? » has not answered.

Biography

What facts do we know about person, who could be the author of plays, it is Shakespeare from Stratford? First of all, somebody did not know anything about him at all. There are no traces and no evidence that someone took him by the writer during his life. Through 50-100 years after he died, people began to search for the traces of these documents.

William Shakespeare was born in the town of Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire Country, in 1564, the exact day of his birth is not known. The tradition says that he was born in the April 23, this date coincides with exactly known the day of his death. «W. Shakespeare's» surname can be translated from English as "shaking with a spear".

The legend says Shakespeare's mother, Mary Arden (1537- 1608), belonged to one of the oldest Saxon families, Shakespeare's father, John Shakespeare, was glove maker.

There are two hypotheses on the William Shakespeare's education. Some believe that the Shakespeares had difficulties with money, because of it, his father took him early from school, and made William an apprentice. All of that was common in the 17th century. On the other hand, others believe that William Shakespeare study at Stratford grammar school, where he received a serious education as Stratford teacher of Latin language and literature, he wrote poetry in Latin.

In 1582, at the age of 18 he got married to Anne Hathaway, who was the daughter of a local landowner, she was older than William Shakespeare. Anne Hathaway was already pregnant at the time of marriage, in 1583 she gave birth to a daughter, and named her Susan, then Anne Hathaway gave birth to the twin, they are son Hemnet and the daughter Judith. Hemnet died in 1596, when he was 11.

The first mention of William Shakespeare's London theatrical career relate to 1592, and the period from 1585 to 1592 the researchers called "lost years" of Shakespeare's life.

Biographers' attempts to learn about the Shakespeare's actions in this period led to the emergence of many apocryphal stories. Nicholas Rowe, who was the first biographer of W. Shakespeare, believed that Shakespeare left Stratford to avoid prosecution for poaching. According to another version of the XVIII century,

Shakespeare began a theatrical career minding the theater patrons' horses in London.

Shakespeare was a member of the troupe. What kind of roles did he play? And did he have any roles at all? This information is unknown. There is a tradition that he was playing the role of the Hamlet's father's shadow. Probably, William Shakespeare involved in crowd scenes.

He was a shareholder in the theatre, that is, he was the actor-co-owner. It is well documented. Some people believe that he would give his pieces to this theatre. It is an excellent suggestion, but it is not confirmed by any documents. There is no documentary indicate that any of the actors of the troupe "Globe" believed that William Shakespeare was writer or playwright.

List of the main candidates of the Shakespeare's "role"

There are a lot of hypotheses (first launched in the XVIII century) that Shakespeare's plays were written by another person. These versions of the "role" of the author of these plays were discussed for more than two centuries. During this time all kinds of candidates were pushed forward from Francis Bacon and Christopher Marlowe to the pirate Francis Drake and Queen Elizabeth. There were versions that a group of authors conceal under the Shakespeare's name. At the moment, there are already 77 candidates for authorship.

Francis Bacon

Was Shakespeare the reality? That question intrigued not only to our contemporaries. In the book «Shakespeare» M. Morozov said that people who were against Shakespeare appeared in the XVIII century, and the first candidate for authorship in 1772 was named as Francis Bacon. The author cites Herbert Lawrence, who was the famous actor David Garrick's friend, «Bacon wrote plays. We do not need to prove how he succeeded in this field. We can say only that he called as Shakespeare. ».

Question of the Shakespeare's authorship was first raised in 1785, when James Wilmot made the assumption that Francis Bacon is the author of these works. He made these conclusions when he visited Stratford to collect information about Shakespeare's life. He found only a few legal documents with six Shakespeare's signatures which were hardly accustomed to the pen arm, and no document confirming his literary career. These findings were not published by James Wilmot.

In the 1828-1832 years, Dionysius Lardner's "Cabinet Encyclopedia" was printed, it argued that Shakespeare's plays "abound gross indecency, which are rougher than any of contemporary's playwrights do" In 1848, Colonel Joseph Hart suggested that W. Shakespeare "bought or procured by stealth" other authors' plays, and then he added obscenity, rude and dirty words.

In 1856, journalist Delia Bacon pushed forward to the suggestion, in her article, that Shakespeare's plays were the result of the some authors' work (Walter Raleigh, Edmund Spenser, etc.), the head of these authors was Francis Bacon. She went to

England to prove this version, where Delia Bacon spent several years studying Shakespeare's documentary. In Stratford, in Holy Trinity Church, she tried to open the Shakespeare's tomb, she expected to find archive of manuscripts, but she was detained by local guards. Delia Bacon was the first who paid attention to the differences in the writing of Shakespeare's signature, and it means that he was not sure about what the letters were in his name. She expounded this theory in an extensive monograph "Disclosure philosophy of Shakespeare's plays" in 1857.

"AntiStratford's" movement began to form (it called so, because of the name of the city, where Shakespeare was born), this movement rejected William Shakespeare's (from Stratford) authorship. Such notable figures as Mark Twain and Sigmund Freud joined "antiStratford's" movement, they also questioned the Shakespeare's existence. A lot of efforts were made to try to find the cryptograms and other clues of the authorship of the texts and other sources such as, for example, an engraving by Martin Droyskhouta.

Edward de Vere, 17th Oxford's Earl

Theory about the Elizabethan courtier and poet Edward de Vere's authorship, also people call him as Oxford's Earl (1550-1604), is well-known. The first time, this hypothesis was proposed by British schoolteacher J. Thomas Looney in 1920. Oxford's version surpassed Baconian version in the popularity. And Oxford's theory is the most common at the beginning of XXI century. The obvious challenge for this version is the earliest date of Oxford's Earl's death. He died, until 10 of Shakespeare's plays appeared, even though we include "Tempest" and "Macbeth", but people who believe in Oxford's version offer different theories to explain the discrepancy.

"Anonymous"

The film "Anonymous" (2011) shows a version of the Edward de Vere's authorship, which helped popularize Shakespeare's question. The Shakespeare's investigator's organization "Shakespeare Birthplace Trust" crossed out Shakespeare's name on the road signs in the county of Warwickshire, and they covered blade the playwright's monument in Stratford-upon-Avon in protest against the film.

The film "Anonymous" tries to answer the question, which intrigued academics and talented individuals such as Mark Twain and Charles Dickens, Henry James and Sigmund Freud for centuries. That question is "who was the real author of the William Shakespeare's plays?" "Anonymous" will present one of the possible answers to this question by focusing on the time, when the political intrigue, illicit romances in the Royal Court, and the ingenious schemes of greedy noblemen were exposed in the most unexpected place, all of these were exposed on the London stage.

The film's director, whose name is Roland Emmerich, describes the film "Anonymous" as a historical thriller about the Queen Elizabeth's reign and the struggle for power, the Essex's revolt, but, mainly, the story is about Edward de

Vere, who was Oxford's Earl and the playwright, who signed his plays as William Shakespeare, and later he became famous. Roland Emmerich believes that Shakespeare did not exist, also he gives some arguments. Because of them, people can think that Shakespeare did not exist.

Roland Emmerich claims that Oxford's Earl signed plays as William Shakespeare. Many Shakespeare's scholars have questioned this version, because Oxford's Earl died in 1604, and some of Shakespeare's plays describe the events, which took place after he died. Learning the question of authorship of works, which signed by the Shakespeare's name is a key theme of the film "Anonymous."

However, that film is not allowed in Britain.

The official website of the movie "Anonymous" has an interesting poll about which version you are tempted, Stratford's (Shakespeare from Stratford) or Oxford's (In this case, the Oxford's Earl).

Christopher Marlowe

Wilbur Tseygler, an American researcher, in 1895, suggested that Christopher Marlowe created the nickname "Shakespeare" after his staged death to continue doing as a playwright.

Christopher Marlowe who was the only William Shakespeare's contemporary is directly quoted in one of the W. Shakespeare's writings. It is believed that in the play "Murder of Gonzaga," which was put by Hamlet (Mousetrap scene), Shakespeare parodied style of Marlowe's monologues.

One of the versions of the conspiracy researchers Shakespeare's question ascribes Marlow (supposedly, he did not not died in 1593) works, which are known under the name of Shakespeare. According to this version of Marlowe's death was staged by himself, possibly, with the assistance of Walsingham. But this is just a guess, because there is no evidence supporting the validity of this hypothesis.

Group of candidates for the authorship of Shakespeare's pieces was getting more and more, candidates are Earl of Derby, the Earl of Essex, Queen Elizabeth, Christopher Marlowe, Earl of Oxford and Earl Retlend, etc. At the moment, there are already 77 candidates for authorship.

There are a lot of unexplained facts that allow us to doubt that William Shakespeare from Stratford-upon-Avon is the real W. Shakespeare.

Personality analysis based on the works

William Shakespeare's works indicate that this man had a giant volume of the active vocabulary, which can compare with nothing. His active vocabulary had from 20 to 25 thousand words, while the most educated and talented his literary contemporaries such as philosopher Francis Bacon had about 9-10 thousand words. Modern Englishman with higher education uses no more than four thousand words. The Oxford Dictionary says that William Shakespeare introduced into the English language around 3200 new words. These are more than his literary contemporaries, such as Bacon, Johnson and Chapman all together combined.

Author of plays knew French (in “Henry V” the whole scene was written in French), Italian, Latin, examined in Greek, oriented well in the history of England, in the ancient history and so on. The plot of “Hamlet” was taken from the book of Frenchman Belfort, which was translated into English only in a hundred years. Plots of “Othello” and “The Merchant from Venice” were borrowed from Italian collections, also which appeared in English only in the XVIII century. The plot of “Two Gentlemen from Verona” was taken from the Spanish pastoral novel, before the play the novel was never published in English.

It was established that William Shakespeare knew the Montaigne’s, Ronsard’s, Ariosto’s, Boccaccio’s works, he knew well the Greco-Roman mythology, literature, history, he used the Homer’s, Plautus’s, Ovid’s, Seneca’s, Plutarch’s writings, and he did not use the only translations, also he used these writings in the original. Scientists set that author of these pieces had to have knowledge in English history, law, rhetoric, music, botany (specialists counted 63 names of plants, trees and flowers in his work), medical, military and naval matters (the proof of this is commands which a boatswain gave in “Tempest”). He knew well Northern Italy, Padua, Venice ... In the William Shakespeare’s works we can see traces of an extremely erudite person, who is highly educated, fluent in the language, know other languages, know a life of the most seniors, who circled into British society.

W. Shakespeare’s contemporary writers such as Marlowe, Johnson, John Donne and others had humbler origins, but their scholarship was better than W. Shakespeare’s. In fact, Shakespeare as a writer never had a reputation as highly educated, it was even vice versa, he was called gifted self-taught person.

Nobody found some books from William Shakespeare’s library, but investigators are still finding books with signatures, something of bookplates, etc... of his contemporaries. Investigators have found at least some manuscripts or letter of some writers or someone's notes about these writers. There are no letters or notes with a contemporary’s reference about W. Shakespeare.

However, there are documents which show that Shakespeare from Stratford worked as usurer, and hard pursued his neighbors, who were a blacksmith and chemist, for debts through the courts. He was an active acquirer.

We can refer to the W. Shakespeare’s testament. It was found in more than one hundred years after W. Shakespeare died. The person who found it was in despair. He wrote to a friend that the testament has not any words that could be associated with Shakespeare, who was the Great Bard. Spoons, forks, money, pensions were pointed there. Everything was pointed there, even there were the dishes and beds. And there was not a single word about the books, which were very expensive.

Where are his manuscripts? At that time Shakespeare’s name was already known, the publishers chased his plays, sonnets. And how they got W. Shakespeare’s manuscripts is unknown. W. Shakespeare’s contemporaries, who were writers, poets, playwrights, earned by selling their manuscripts. But he did not! He drove poor debtor to court for two pounds and, possibly, jailed neighbor-smith, he did not mention any of the manuscripts. But everybody could get six pounds for a play!

But there is a version that William Shakespeare's manuscripts were kept in "Globe" theatre, where W. Shakespeare worked. "Globe" was burned, and it means that Shakespeare's manuscripts were burned too.

When Shakespeare from Stratford died, no one, in England, did not say anything! The record in Stratford parish register is the only response to the death of a genius. That is "April 25, 1616 Will Shakespeare buried, Gentleman."

When the poet died, even if he was not very famous, colleagues wrote an elegy on his death or published collections of memorabilia, it was usual at that time. But there were not any words, any sounds here.

Really, the assertion that no one responded to the Shakespeare's death is wrong. There are several posthumous that praised Shakespeare, which went into the manuscript (in one of them said that it was Shakespeare died in April 1616), and a few years later the first folio came, also it praised the author. No one of the Elizabethan dramatists had not received comparable obituary responses, before Ben Johnson had.

Conclusion

We proved the hypothesis, which we gave at the beginning, because of the facts that we found. We want to mark that England is keeper its traditions and it you can see in Englishmen's attitude to William Shakespeare's identity. He is not only England's national property, but he is also property of world's culture. Shakespeare's question is very interesting topic. And we guess it would be good topic in some subjects, for example, it might be excited in History.

List of literature

1. Marina Litvinova «Shakespeare's Justification»;
2. O. Kozminius and O. Melehtsy «Shakespeare. The Secret History»;
3. David Kathman «The Question of Authorship»;
4. Jonathan Bate «The Genius of Shakespeare»;
5. Frank Wadsworth «The Poacher from Stratford: A Partial Account of the Controversy Over the Authorship of Shakespeare's Plays»;
6. Irvin L. Matus «Shakespeare, IN FACT»;
7. Paul Prescott «Shakespeare in Popular Culture».