

ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION OF THE FOLKLORIC CHRONOTOPE IN ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL-CULTURAL MENTALITY

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Abstract. This article explores the artistic interpretation of the folkloric chronotope in English and American literature within the framework of national-cultural mentality. Drawing on the theoretical perspectives of M. Bakhtin, Y. Lotman, G. Bachelard, and V. Propp, the study analyzes spatial and temporal representations in key folklore texts. English and American folkloric chronotopes are examined through specific literary examples to reveal how they reflect cultural values, social norms, and collective memory. Additional folktales are analyzed to deepen understanding of chronotopic structures and their relation to national identity and cultural pedagogy.

Keywords: folkloric chronotope, English literature, American literature, national mentality, space, time, artistic interpretation, hybrid space.

Introduction. The concept of the chronotope, introduced by M. Bakhtin, denotes the intrinsic connection between temporal and spatial relationships in literary works. In folklore, the chronotope conveys cultural memory, social norms, and historical experience. The spatial and temporal structures of narratives not only shape character development but also reflect collective and national ideologies. This study examines the artistic expression of chronotopes in English and American folklore, emphasizing how they embody national-cultural mentality and the interplay of the real and the fantastic.

Bakhtin's chronotope theory provides a framework for understanding the relationship between space, time, and narrative meaning. In folklore, spatial and temporal configurations often encode moral lessons, societal hierarchies, and cultural norms. Lotman's semiosphere emphasizes the cultural and semiotic environment of literature, highlighting how spaces carry symbolic meaning. Bachelard's poetics of space investigates how imagined and material spaces influence human consciousness, and Propp's morphology identifies recurring narrative functions that interact with spatial and temporal structures.

In *Jack and the Beanstalk* story the vertical journey from Jack's humble home to the giant's castle in the sky creates a dynamic vertical chronotope, representing social mobility, aspiration, and the tension between earthly limitations and transcendent possibilities. The giant's realm introduces a space of threat and reward, symbolizing societal values of courage, ingenuity, and perseverance. The narrative's temporal structure, mythic and non-linear, reinforces the moral lesson that risk and effort lead to social advancement.



Sherwood Forest serves as a complex chronotopic space, embodying freedom, justice, and resistance against tyranny. The forest's boundaries create a liminal zone where social hierarchies are temporarily suspended, allowing Robin Hood and his band to operate according to alternative ethical codes. Temporality is episodic, reflecting raids, rescues, and moral trials, illustrating the integration of time and space in reinforcing cultural ideals of fairness and heroism.

Domestic spaces in these folktales—such as the bears' home or the pigs' houses—serve as microcosms of society, where moral lessons about safety, responsibility, and human behavior are encoded. Spatial hierarchy and material structures reflect social norms, while temporal sequences emphasize causality and moral consequences. These tales illustrate Bakhtin's concept of the chronotope by linking spatial arrangements with narrative progression and cultural pedagogy.

The chronotope of Paul Bunyan stories encompasses vast forests and frontier landscapes, highlighting human interaction with nature. Time is situated historically, reflecting colonial expansion and industrialization. The expansive space symbolizes opportunity, individual initiative, and national identity, while episodic temporal sequences allow the narrative to portray multiple adventures, reinforcing values of labor, resilience, and creativity.

John Henry's chronotope situates the protagonist within the material space of railroad construction during the Industrial Revolution. The narrative juxtaposes human labor against mechanization, exploring the tension between man and machine. Temporality is linear and sequential, emphasizing cause-and-effect relationships and illustrating moral and cultural ideals such as diligence, heroism, and communal respect for labor.

Pecos Bill's tales illustrate the American frontier, combining extreme landscapes with fantastical feats, constructing a chronotope of limitless space and episodic time that conveys national ideals of exploration and ingenuity. Johnny Appleseed's narrative situates him across multiple settlements and temporal periods, linking ecological awareness, community development, and cultural diffusion. Both narratives highlight how expansive American geography shapes national-cultural mentality through folklore.

While both English and American folklore utilize chronotopes to encode cultural values and moral lessons, the scale and orientation of space differ significantly. English folktales often focus on localized, symbolic spaces with vertical or enclosed dynamics, reinforcing societal hierarchies and communal norms. American folktales emphasize horizontal expansiveness, exploration, and individual initiative, reflecting historical realities of colonization, frontier life, and industrialization.

Temporal structuring in English folklore tends to be linear within mythic frameworks, while American folklore employs episodic and extended temporal frameworks to encompass multi-generational or large-scale societal narratives. English chronotopes reinforce tradition, continuity, and social order; American chronotopes promote adaptability, independence, and innovation.

The study of chronotopes in folklore demonstrates how literature mirrors and shapes national-cultural mentality. English folklore emphasizes continuity, communal values, and respect for tradition, while American folklore reflects democratic ideals, individualism, and pioneering spirit. Understanding these structures elucidates the mechanisms through which folklore communicates social expectations, collective memory, and cultural identity.

Expanding the analysis to include additional folktales provides a deeper understanding of spatial and temporal configurations and their role in narrative, pedagogy, and cultural



transmission. Future research could explore chronotopic patterns in contemporary adaptations, visual media, and cross-cultural comparisons to further illuminate the interplay between folklore, space, time, and national mentality.

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