

RHYTHM AS ONE OF THE BASIC FACTORS OF HUMAN BEING IN ARISTOTLE'S "POETICS"

The article explores rhythm in all kinds of human's speech and artistic activity as an integral part of nature as it is presented in "Poetics" by Aristotle. The concept of rhythm as metre on poetry and its meaning in human's life was studied by ancient philosophers. Contemporary scholars regard the links between physical and psychical human's harmony in Aristotle's concept of rhythm [2], developing his idea of rhythm in music and in poetry [3]. Rhythm as a form organizing chaotic artistic material unites poetry and music and reflects the very basic features of human's life [4]. Cambridge dictionary defines rhythm as a strong pattern of sounds, words, or musical notes that is used in music, poetry, and dancing [6].

Studying literature is an exciting experience. We are able to know more about the principles of people's life centuries ago, as well as about their habits and their interests. But today, with the help of literature, I want to show that ancient people knew a little more about rhythm than we do. Many people think that rhythm it is just in music and dance (which is definitely obvious) but let us expand our vision and understanding of rhythm. This study aims to consider what the rhythm means. I explore the meaning of rhythm in Aristotle's "Poetics" [0; 5] where it is regarded as one of three main components of imitation which is the main human's feature and the basis of any artistic activity: "The imitation is produced by rhythm, language, or harmony, either singly or combined" [**Ошибка! Источник ссылки не найден.**].

Firstly, I want to say, that rhythm is an integral part of human's life and is present everywhere. Music cannot exist without musical instrument, harmony and rhythm "Thus in the music of the flute and of the lyre, 'harmony' and rhythm alone are employed; also, in other arts, such as that of the shepherd's pipe, which are essentially similar to these" [5]. And vice versa, rhythm is impossible without harmony. Human's breath and heartbeat can be considered the source and prototype for the concept of rhythm in artistic practice. It is like human cannot exist beyond heart, or like yin without yang. As Aristotle claims, dance consists of rhythm which, in turn links it directly with action and drama: "In dancing, rhythm alone is used without 'harmony'; for even dancing imitates character, emotion, and action, by rhythmical movement it is very important for this kind of activities" [**Ошибка! Источник ссылки не найден.**]. How we will know that steps are taken in correct beat? As Aristotle says, via rhythm dancing imitates character, emotion and action [5]. From these facts, one may conclude that everything has some special purpose.

Rhythm in poetry is a point of specific interest for the Ancient Greek scholar: in his work, Aristotle mentions that iamb it is more suitable for dialog (presumably we do not even think about it): "Once dialogue had come in, Nature herself discovered the appropriate measure. For the iambic is, of all measures, the most colloquial: we see it in the fact that conversational speech runs into iambic lines more frequently than into any other kind of verse; rarely into hexameters, and only when we drop the colloquial

intonation” [Ошибка! Источник ссылки не найден.]. Aristotle differentiates various metres in their correlation with various spheres of human’s communication and artistic imitation with the accent on iambic, elegiac, or any similar meter [5], which allows to conclude that rhythm of speech varied according to the kind of activity and theme of the discourse.

At the same time, rhythm exists independently: we can observe rhythm in nature. Following the natural rhythm of day and night, light and dark, dry and wet or cold and warm periods of the year, a human aligns his/her life with the life of nature, and this understanding becomes a way to survive. In my opinion, Daniel Defoe’s Robinson Crusoe can be regarded as an example of a person who understood the meaning of rhythm in nature: he watched how other animals lived and started to imitate them in some way. Therefore, in imitation, we can trace rhythm and harmony. Through the lens of the century, we can see that rhythm is something that people cannot exist without.

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