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“KOLOBOK” VERS. “JOHNNY-CAKE”

When I found the English fairy tale “Johnny-cake” at the school library, I was so surprised: it looked like the Russian folk tale “Kolobok”.

The subject of our research work is comparative analysis of Russian and English fairy tales. The tasks are to read “Kolobok” and “Johnny-cake”; to compare them and to prepare the presentation of the project.

The purpose is to find common and different features in these fairy tales.

The objects are the Russian folk tale “Kolobok” and the English fairy tale “Johnny-cake” by Joseph Jacobs.

Used methods: studying of fairy tales, comparative methods and analyzing.

The actuality. If you read folk fairy tales, you’ll get to know the language and culture of other nations.

The hypothesis. If you compare the certain Russian and English fairy tales, you can find some common features.

The practical value of this research work. Reading of English literature is very important. We think, it’s easier and more effective to understand a fairy tale than to learn difficult words by heart.

The Theoretical Part

Kolobok is an old Russian round fried bread who comes to life and escapes from the home of granny and grandpa. The fairy tale describes Kolobok's meetings with a hare, a wolf, and a bear who try to eat it, but Kolobok cunningly escapes. Every time Kolobok sings a song, "I got away from Grandmother, I got away from Grandfather, and I will certainly get away from you." The fox manages to catch and eat Kolobok by praising his singing. For the first time this fairy tale was printed in the book of Konstantin Ushinskij in 1864.

Johnny cake is a small flat cake made from cornmeal. It is almost the same story as Kolobok except that Johnny-cake is the main character instead of Kolobok. For the first time this fairy tale was printed in the book of Joseph Jacobs in 1890.

The Practical Part

Let’s analyze these fairy tales.

They have a lot in common:

	“Kolobok”	“Johnny-cake”
Beginning	Жили-были...	Once upon a time...
Structure	Epithets, exclamatory sentences, repetitions, sounds, national colloquial words and expressions “Поди-ка, поскребла, помела, пряжен, стужен, подавно”	Epithets, exclamatory sentences, repetitions, sounds, national colloquial words and expressions “Ye can, can ye? We’ll see about that!”
Ending	«А лиса его – гам! – и съела».	“... he snapped up the Johnny-cake in his sharp teeth in the twinkling of an eye.”

They have some differences:

	“Kolobok”	“Johnny-cake”
Main characters	Жили-были старик со старухой.... а навстречу ему заяц... серый волк... медведь... лиса.	Once upon a time there was an old man, and an old woman, and a little boy. ...he came to two well-diggers... to two ditch-diggers... to a bear... to a wolf... to a fox.
On the way	Kolobok runs from the characters: «...И покатился колобок дальше – только его ... и видел».	The characters “...ran after him, but couldn’t catch up with him, and soon they had to sit down by the roadside to rest”.

Conclusion

Russian and English fairy tales are different in details, but they have a lot in common. So we proved the hypothesis: “If you compare the certain Russian and English fairy tales, you can find some common features”.

The world of fairy tales is open for everybody. “Some day you will be old enough to start reading fairy tales again”, said C.S. Lewis.

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