



## GENRE ORIGINALITY OF V.O. PELEVIN

**Bektoshev Rustam**

**Master Student Of Termez State University, Uzbekistan**

**ABSTRACT:** - The revealing of a work of art poetry specifics through the actualization of world modelling genre strategies is a popular and promising trend in modern literary criticism. This article is devoted to the study of V.O. Pelevin's creativity, one of the most significant writers of modern Russian literature. The article examines V. Pelevin's works written in the 90-s of the twentieth century in terms of genre specificity, in particular, the variable refraction of education novel model in the works "Omon Ra", "Life of Insects", "Generation 'P'". In the study of V. Pelevin's creativity of the 90-s the focus was on the definition of the topical originality of his works, as well as on the revealing of postmodern poetic tricks there. The scientific novelty of this study lies in the fact that it discloses the specifics of the education novel genre model functioning in the writer's works written in the 90s of the twentieth century (including its parody version). The article explores in detail the structural and compositional components of the genre model in the education novel within the texts selected for the analysis, revealed its transformed (in line with the game poetics) option. The semantic potential of this genre model is associated with the actualization of humanistic axiology that allows to make the conclusion about its priority in the early works of the writer, deepens the understanding of the education model genre model polyvariance, brings new dimensions in the interpretation of the writer's works written in the 90- s of the twentieth century.

**KEYWORDS:** Education novel, Parodic aspect, Spiritual transformation, Structural and semantic component.

### INTRODUCTION

Victor Olegovich Pelevin (Russian: Виктор Олегович Пелевин, IPA: [ˈvʲiktər ɐˈlʲɛgəvʲɪtɕ pʲɪˈlʲevʲɪn]; born 22 November 1962) is a

Russian fiction writer. His novels include Omon Ra (1992), The Life of Insects (1993), Chapayev and Void (1996), and Generation P (1999). He is a laureate of multiple literary awards including the Russian Little Booker Prize (1993)

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and the Russian National Bestseller (2004), the former for the short story collection *The Blue Lantern* (1991). His books are multi-layered postmodernist texts fusing elements of pop culture and esoteric philosophies while carrying conventions of the science fiction genre. Some critics relate his prose to the New Sincerity literary movement.[1]

Victor Olegovich Pelevin was born in Moscow on 22 November 1962 to Zinaida Semenovna Efremova, an English teacher, and Oleg Anatolyevich Pelevin, a teacher at the military department of Bauman University.[2] He lived on Tverskoy Boulevard in Moscow, later moving to Chertanovo. In 1979, Pelevin graduated from an elite high school with a special English program located on Stanislavskogo Street in the centre of Moscow, now Kaptsov Gymnasium #1520.

He then attended the Moscow Power Engineering Institute (MPEI) graduating with a degree in electromechanical engineering in 1985.[3] In April of that year, MPEI Department of Electrical Transport hired him as engineer. Pelevin served in the Russian Air Force.[4] From 1987 to 1989, Pelevin attended the MPEI graduate school.[3]

Pelevin travels to Asia often, and has been to Nepal, South Korea, China and Japan.[5] While he does not call himself a Buddhist, he is engaged in Buddhist practices.[6] Pelevin has repeatedly said that despite the fact that his characters use drugs, he is not an addict even though he has experimented with mind-expanding substances in his youth.[7] Pelevin is not married.[8]

Pelevin has no current or past public social media accounts (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, VKontakte) [9]

In December 2018, the media reported that the writer Victor Pelevin registered in the register of individual entrepreneurs in the

territorial office of the Pension Fund in Moscow.[

In 1989, Pelevin attended Mikhail Lobanov's creative writing seminar at Maxim Gorky Literary Institute.[8] While studying at the Institute, Pelevin met the young novelist Albert Egazarov and the poet Victor Kulle, later a literary critic. Pelevin was expelled from the Institute in 1991. Egazarov and Kulle went on to found a publishing house, first called *The Day*, then *The Raven* and *Myth*, for which Pelevin has edited three volumes of Carlos Castaneda's work.[8]

From 1989 to 1990, Pelevin worked as a staff reporter of the magazine *Face to Face*. In 1989, he also began to work in the journal *Nauka i Religiya* (Science and Religion), where he edited a series of articles on eastern mysticism. In 1989, *Nauka i Religiya* published Pelevin's first short story "The Sorcerer Ignat and People".[11]

In 1991, Pelevin published his first collection of stories *The Blue Lantern*. [12][13] Two years later, it received the Russian Little Booker Prize. In 1994, it received InterPressCon and the Bronze Snail awards. In March 1992, Pelevin published his first novel *Omon Ra* in the literary journal *Znamya*. [8] The novel attracted the attention of literary critics and was nominated for the Booker Prize. In April 1993, the same journal published Pelevin's next novel *The Life of Insects*. [8] In 1993, Pelevin published an essay "John Fowles and the tragedy of Russian liberalism" in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*. The essay was the writer's answer to some negative critics reaction to his work. In the same year Pelevin was admitted to the Russian Union of Journalists.

In 1996, Pelevin participated in the International Writing Program residency at the University of Iowa. [14] That same year, *Znamya* published Pelevin's novel *Chapayev*

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and Void. Critics called it "the first Zen Buddhist novel in Russian".[15] The writer himself called it "the first novel which takes place in an absolute vacuum". In 1997, the novel won Russia's Strannik Award for science fiction, and in 2001 it was shortlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award.[16]

In 1999, Pelevin's novel *Generation P* was published. Over 3.5 million copies have been sold worldwide.[citation needed] The book received a number of awards including Germany's Richard Schoenfeld prize.

In 2003, Pelevin published the novel *The Dialectics of Transition Period from Out of Nowhere to Nowhere or DTP (NN)*, receiving the Apollon Grigoryev Prize in 2003 and the National Bestseller award in 2004. *DTP (NN)* was also shortlisted for the Andrei Bely Prize in 2003.[17]

In 2006, Eksmo published Pelevin's novel *Empire V*. The novel was shortlisted for the Russian Big Book award.[18] The text of *Empire V* appeared on the Internet even before the publication of the novel. Representatives of Eksmo claimed that it was a result of a theft, but some speculated that it was a marketing ploy.

In October 2009, the novel *t* was published. The author received the third award of the fifth season of the Big Book award (2009–2010) and won the reader choice vote.[19]

In December 2011, Eksmo released Pelevin's novel *S.N.U.F.F.* which received the E-book award for "Prose of the Year" in February 2012.

Literary critics have noted Pelevin's postmodernist and absurdist styles, which incorporate Buddhist motifs, esoteric traditions, and satirical science fiction. Pelevin's books have been translated into many languages including Japanese and Chinese. According to a French magazine,

Pelevin is among the 1,000 most significant people in the contemporary culture. A 2009 OpenSpace.ru survey voted Pelevin as the most influential intellectual in Russia.

Pelevin is known for not being a part of the literary crowd, rarely appearing in public or giving interviews and preferring to communicate on the internet. When he gives interviews, he talks more about the nature of mind rather than his writings. This has given grounds to various rumors. For instance, it has been suggested that the writer does not exist and Pelevin is actually a code name for a group of authors or even a computer.

In May 2011, it was reported that Pelevin would personally attend the award ceremony *SuperNatsBest*, which would have been the writer's first appearance in public. However, he did not come.[20]

Pelevin has permitted all of his texts in Russian predating 2009 (except *P5: Farewell songs of the political pygmies of Pindostan*) to be published on the Internet for non-commercial use. Some novels are also available as audio files in Russian.

In December 2010, he wrote a collection of novels and short stories *"Pineapple Water for the Fair Lady"*, which was in the long list of the Russian Literary Award "Big Book" (season 2010/11).[21]

In December 2011, he released the novel *"S.N.U.F.F."*. In February of the following year, this work received the "Electronic Book" award in the "Prose of the Year" category.

In March 2013, Pelevin's eleventh novel *"Batman Apollo"* was released, which is a sequel to *"Empire V"*. Then came the novels *"Love for Three Zuckerbrins"* (2014), *"The Caretaker"* (2015), *"Methuselah's Lamp, or The Last Battle of the Chekists and Masons"* (2016).[22]

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In 2017, the novel "iPhuck 10" was published, which won the Andrew White Prize.[23] In 2018, the novel "Secret Views of Mount Fuji" was released. "The Art of Light Touches" was released in August 2019. In August 2020, the novel "The Invincible Sun" was published.[24]

For the past nine years, the author has been releasing one book a year, it can be a novel or a collection of stories united by a common theme.[25] In the fall of 2021 the book "Transhumanism Inc." was published, which is a collection of stories united by the theme of the concept of transhumanism.

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