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# Scales toward Adulthood – Scales through Life

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**Abstract:** *Adolescence is defined as the period between childhood and adulthood, characterized by dynamic physical development and significant changes in cognitive, emotional and social development. In the novel "Skalila" from Kata Misirkova-Rumenova depicting the lives of young adolescents transition to adulthood that transition survive alone because their parents workload without the necessary care and advice of them. In this time, some of them continue on track and some straying from the path and reject the true values in life.*

**Keywords:** the adolescence, street, scale, young adult Macedonian literature.

## 1. INTRODUCTION – WHAT IS "LITERATURE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE"/YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE?

If someone mentions "literature for young people", almost immediately the questions are asked like: what is literature for children and youth literature, is there is a hybrid genre as literature for children and youth, and should be distinguished by some features, which is the difference between them, is there any difference if the name refers to the age difference of the consumers of this literature, then who / what are the limits, etc ...?. The fact is that in the contemporary Macedonian literature for children, there are not many writers who write for these readers. However, lately seeks to break through the names of the authors of the younger and less of the older generation who write about the problems of modern adolescents.

It seems that first we need to determine the age group covered by this literature. Many theorists have written about this, and there seems no consensus on this issue. There are always arguments and counter-arguments. However, most of them, including Strickland disagree about the claim, that in fact, the term "young adult" was coined by the Young Adult Library Services Association during the 1960s to represent the 12-18 age range (Yanders, 2014).

Literature for young people is important, not only because it's fun character or because it is easy to read, but also because it helps young people to find easier way to pass the chaos of adolescence. It reflects their experiences and helps them find their own identity. The establishment of personal identity is the most delicate process of growth period. The early adolescent period is characterized by internal conflicts, insecurity, stress and disorientation, and increased self-awareness. In general, the combination of cognitive, social and psychological problems makes adolescence a critical period for the confrontation of the individual with the changes in his own personality (Opacic, 2011:18).

## 2. YOUTH SHOWN IN THE NOVEL "SKALILA" BY KATA MISIRKOVA RUMENOVA

In the novel "Skalila" from Kata Misirkova-Rumenova depicting the lives of young adolescents transition to adulthood that transition survive alone because their parents workload without the necessary care and advice of them. In this time, some of them continue on track and some straying from the path and reject the true values in life.

The novel "Skalila" ("Stairway") by Kata Misirkova-Rumenova actually represents ladder through which children step towards the world of adults. When children move from childhood to adulthood, they experience many physical and emotional problems and behavioral changes. Those years are abundant with challenges and thrills, and more worries and problems: adolescents are under pressure to succeed at school, to be loved by others, to be popular, to have good relationships with peers and family and make important decisions about their lives. Most of these events are stressful and sometimes inevitably cause concern among parents and adolescents. That is the reason why adolescence is a period that requires a huge adjustment, both for the child and the parent. For these reasons, it is not surprising topic for pre / involvement of parents in today's dynamic life, their preoccupation with some not so important things in life, which unwittingly neglected children who are so necessary: "Among my mum's room and the hall was still standing precipitated beautiful perfume "Charlie", but my mom was not home. In my children's heart I fell upon a hidden sadness that tonight I will be with Stojanka. Still, mama's presence filled me with a differently security. My rooms were filled with special light and my dream attract the guards relaxed in any lasting peace. But when she was gone, I felt emptiness and loneliness because there was no one to tell the great events of the day... (21). That is why Rosenblatt focuses its attention on the adolescent as a reader of this literary genre, linking it to the need for the reader to enter into the experience of others, to feel the beauty and intensity of what the world offers. All that Rosenblatt connects with human need to connect and identify. This is where she sees the positive side of adolescent literature or research experiences of others through literature, can directly help in empowerment and building self-confidence. Linking with similar experiences can help adolescent-reader to feel less lonely or to serve as a guide through his own experiences, and to explore human relationships, issues related to morality or social expectations (Fox, 2010:8).

Instead of parents who are not there for him, answer to their questions and their dilemmas young people look elsewhere. In this case, the twelve year old boy in the novel, in this case Boro-protagonist, finds his companion into their maid Stojanka: "To me, from beginning to end, she was a devoted companion, guardian of my personal secrets, support in woes, loyal guard at the fateful moments ..."(9).

Lack of parents is usually seek on the street: "I do not know why we, the children, we loved the street more than our own homes. Whether it is good or bad, though the street had no hands to caress us, nor mouth to feed us. But selflessly kept us from morning to night like we are her children ..."(9).

Here the author uses the ladder as a transition between two worlds: the street is always full of kids and fun and Boro's home who is always empty and cold. The street for Boro is a special moment in his life: „ Our street was the most beautiful street in the world. I swear. And I would not replace her for any of a jet plane. Not for a gilded boat. If somebody give me and the magical face of the rainbow from the sky, I will not give my street, I swear. Every trees, corners and lawns knew me, and the circular space, not far from our house, which served as airport. Here we fall and get dirty as pigs, in summer and winter. We were hiding behind tall green fences in case of callous chase. We drag the branches of trees to tear the milk fragrant flower..."(10). In his free time, when he was not at school, Boro goes out on the street to play with his friends with interesting nicknames: Mile Falbeto, Branco Snagata, Andrea Clempeto and Eftimco Mecaloto.

In one such day, Boro came out on the street with his leather ball that his father bought from Singapore, to play football with his friends. Sport looks like a viable method to overcome the barriers posed by culture and an opportunity to promote greater social purposes (Olushola, Jones, Dixon, Green, 2013: 211-225). Also, sport enables cultural and structural context, suitable for personal development and sport can enhance the values of discipline, respect and teamwork (Hawkins, Mulkey, 2005:62-88). Perhaps because, and sports is the only preoccupation of Boro.

Then an event occurred that changed his life. One of his friends kicked the ball right into the window of a small house on the street and broke the window. All fled and because the ball was Boro's, he had to go and take it.

He knocked on the door and immediately began to apologize to the man who appeared at the door: „A tall, middle-aged man with long, reddish beard, lying in close hallway stacked and carried some black heads of plaster on the floor. I saw his back, hair and beard. He had straightening eyes and nose with some yellowish color spilling down his cheeks. He was unusually dressed. So far I had not seen such a man. Did I scared? No. Since it broke out some indifference. The room was filled with great peace. Everything was quietly around him. I soothe my knees with my hands, then my teeth, as they have differently overlap each other, danced and played, and it was not nice for the man, for me...“(14). The meeting with the man unexpectedly changed the course of events, so instead he yelled at the child for a broken window, cradling him and dealt with him like a son: „He looked me straight in the eyes with a warm, relaxed look. It seemed like he was thirsty for friendship, or he waited for days and years me to appear, so now, having human warmth, ashamed to hit me off once, but continued to hug me as if I'd lost...“(15). Boro had been amazed by the tiny room where a man lived and his great talent for painting: "Never before, and nothing in the world had drawn me so strongly. I felt like I was born by a second time. Stronger and bigger, like I discovered the magic of power and knowledge...“(18). The wandered ball of the children's play in the house of the old artist Apostol Dimov brings (un) expected metamorphosis in social and emotional world of the little hero Boro. (Kitanov, 2007:7-14).

That meeting changed Boro deep: "Is it the first time I stood between the ladders? Do I undress the shirt of early childhood and chose to young adulthood?...“(17). At that meeting the child who entered through that door came out as older boy with a different view of the world and to himself. Looking in the mirror he noticed physical changes in yourself: hairs on the chin, elongated nose and pimples. Immediately after the problem arose - first love. She was the new girl in class - Sinolicka Peeva, returnee from Australia: „I sat next to her and trembled. Wow, let me touch with her pretty dress; not scattered its long hair; shining like the sun, and to me it ignites the heart...“(36). The events at the school, the new girl, and the events on the street with Tome Shiclata who attacked him and his friends asking for money, although it shook him, not stopped him to think about the meeting with the man, so he went to his door to ask for him, but he did not found him at home. He was strongly excited by that. But later, the disappearance of valuables from his home brought the strong uneasiness in his soul.

The second meeting with the man Apostol of the little house gone particularly enjoyable. Apostle with Boro behaved like a grown man and had not even treated him like a child as all the rest from his home.

At that meeting, the Apostol gave him a paper in which he drew a horse, and on the Apostol's paper he saw the drawn image of Sinolicka which later donate to him. Thus, the author managed to achieve perfect harmony and to merge art and love.

Later the event with the abuser Tome Shiclara repeated. Violator, along with his group again attacked Boro and his clique demanding money and asking their territory – the street. Boro

was not brought to beating with children, he was not strong enough to do that, so he and his band on resourceful way escaped brawl. In this way the author opens a very delicate issue in literature are for children and youth, and that is violence and how young people deal with it. Author Michael Cart emphasizes therapeutic influence has this literature for adolescents, because there they read a series of problems which are themselves faced through secondary education, some family conflicts, issues related to their identity, issues related to violence and questions associated with certain mental problems (Cart, 2010: 275).

On the third meeting with Apostol, Boro learned that he was sick of drinking a lot because of the tragic event in the past that killed his wife, daughter, mother and father. Since then, he remained alone and resorted to drinking.

Now it was in the late stages of the disease and was aware that he would die, but the company with Boro was enjoyable to him. Events flowing in the normal manner until the New Year celebration. All Sinolicka friends were invited to her place for celebration.

For Boro it was his first time to celebrate the New Year without his parents and it was new and joyous experience for him. That day everything flowed as agreed and everything was wonderful: the food, the room, the company ... However, a statement by the father of Sinolicka-Bogdan that they would again go to Australia blinded the luck to Boro. He fell into serious mental suffering – will he lose his first love forever?: „, I wanted to cry long. To mourning my first love. Although I was not yet acknowledged that I live for her, I eat and dream of her, she still knew...“(91). Since then Boro completely changed, it didn't come out on the street to hang out with friends, do not go on playing the piano, not playing the piano, in the school ordered poor grades in the log... Everything around him became black. Just hanging out with his friend Apostol appealed like healing his soul. As the Apostol understand him with look, compassion with his pain, he aided on his own way. But, all this, that small peace that existed there were taken away from him. One day while Boro and Apostol sat in the room and drew, on the door appeared mother of Boro. She was very angry at Boro and his behavior, so she accused Mr. Apostol. He was hurt by the insults and told her: “You have money, Mrs. Doctor. You have a car, but Boro does not appreciate that, because he is a child. He talks to me like I'm his mate...“(107). She responded by saying: "Boris is a child, you are deceive him!". But here Apostol helped his mother to realize: "Boris is not a child anymore. And the first wake-up suffered as nightmare ... Boris already steps like a man ... When Boris had problems, his father was in Algeria, then traveled to China, then Singapore...“(108). All those insults from two dearest personalities for Boro, he could not bear, so he rushed through the door and found himself on the street. Apostol ran after him, but fell unconscious in the middle of the street. They took him to the hospital. After a while Boro with his companions went to the hospital to visit sick recluse. He was in a very difficult situation. He was under some tools that have held afloat. After leaving from the hospital, Apostol died with a smile on his face. The death of his closest friend, Boro filed difficult. But accidents for Boro did not end here. Soon his friend - a maid and nanny Stojanka married and went along with it. So he remained alone with their troubles. All these events helped to grow, to mature. However, the end of the novel does not highlights but leaves open the question - do we really leave the dream of childhood and seriously enter into boyhood? (Kitanov, Marjanovic, 2007: 373).

### 3. CONCLUSION

"Stairway" is a youthful novel that reflects the problems of young people and what they care about, problems and dilemmas that plague relations parents-children relations among the youth in and

outside school. As such, it can be very useful book not only for young people who spend the temptations of youth, accompanied by many problems, crises of identity, insecurity, fear of rejection in the the surroundings, fear of physical and psychological changes that happen to them, but it can be a very useful book for parents with young people in their everyday life to overcome these problems. This book will help parents to better understand that young people need their fully attention, presence, advices and guidance.

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