This scheme represents interactions and ties between the Soviet children’s writers between 1953-1956. According to my hypothesis, it would make evident how the considerable liberation in this field took place, and how personal efforts and interpersonal ties influenced it. It is highly important when describing the so called process of destalinization in Soviet culture. Till now this process has been described mostly by means of generalizing concepts and even cultural myths, despite we have enough data to attentively analyze it focusing on minor details and modes of interactions.

I am planning to include to my scope not only personal, but also institutional configurations, and I would be grateful if the person who works with my data invented the appropriate format to fulfill this task in a visual form.

I would be happy to see that the number of ties one node has is directly designated by the size of the circle (or other figure).

I think it would be more convenient to present the personal ties within the following table which demonstrates the particular ties, their strength and their length. The major strength of the tie is designated by the “5th” degree whereas the weakest is designated by the 1st. As for the length, I designate by “1” the direct tie between two persons and increase the degree in correspondence with the number of intermediaries which provide this tie (2 means that there was one intermediary, 3 – 2 intermediaries, etc.). Just for the sake of accuracy, I mentioned the ties between two persons in both lines related to each of them (e.g. the tie between Konstantin Paustovsky and Lev Kassil is mentioned in Paustovsky’s and in Kassil’s list of ties).

Among the major nodes there are a) people who played crucial role in institutional interactions (they are Lev Kassil and Valentin Kataev), b) people who were important as cultural referees (they are Samuil Marshak and Korney Chukovsky), c) people who were very socially active (they are Lidia Chukovskaya and Frida Vigdorova), d) people who were both aesthetically and ideologically influential (I would list here both Chukovskaya and Paustovsky). All four classes of nodes should be represented with particular color or shape.

It would be very useful if the program and the visualized model would make it possible to correct the figures designating the length and the strength of ties (I has not finished collecting archival and oral evidences concerning this matter, and it could happen that I found, for example, a proof of direct acquaintance which is now represented as indirect). It would be great to have an opportunity to add to this model new names and ties, i.e. to construct this model not as stable and irremovable, but as working and adjusted for constant inserting new names and figures.

Among the names included to the table (and the future visualized model) there are two people – BORIS ZHITKOV AND GEORGY BELYKH -- who were already dead in 1953, nevertheless, they were important within the represented configuration. I would suggest to designate them with particular color or shape.

As for the institution, I would like to include four: Gorky Literary Institute, “Youth” journal and the Leningrad branch of the editorial of the “Detgiz” publishing house that worked till 1937, but still remained important in the cultural memory of the major actors. The fourth institution, the Moscow Bureau of the Children’s Section of the Writers’ Union, was almost all-encompasing, and include more than a half of writers included to the first table. Nevertheless, it would be necessary to designate their participation in this institution, as well as their ties with its head, Leo Kassil (I suggest to designate his role in the Bureau and in the Literary Institute also with particular color or shape). The second table, representing institutional belonging of particular figures is drawn below.

The third table represents the circles of friends that played no less important role than the institutions, and it vital to unite the members of both circles in any distinctive way.

I would appreciate any recommendations concerning possible improvements to the technical description which I wrote. And think you for your assistance!

Maria Mayofis,

School for Advanced Study in the Humanities, Russia,

Washington and Lee University, USA.

==

Table 1. Personal ties.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of a person | Has a tie with | Strength of a tie | Length of a tie |  |
| Tamara Gabbe | Samuil Marshak  Evgenii Shvartz  Lidiya Chukovskaya  Leonid Panteleev  Korney Chukovsky  Georgy Belyh  Boris Zhitkov  Frida Vigdorova  Nora Gal  Susanna Georgievskaya | 5  2  5  2  2  1  3  3  2  4 | 1  1  1  1  2  2  1  2  1  1 |  |
| Boris Zhitkov | Korney Chukovsky  Lidia Chukovskaya  Leonid Panteleev  Georgi Belyh  Samuil Marshak | 4  4  3  3  3 | 1  1  1  1  1 |  |
| Samuil Marshak | Korney Chukovsky  Lidia Chukovskaya  Frida Vigdorova  Lev Kassil | 2  3  1  2 | 1  1  2  1 |  |
| Evgeniy Shvartz | Leonid Panteleev  Tamara Gabbe  Lidiya Chukovskaya | 3  2  1 | 1  1  2 |  |
| Korney Chukovsky | Samuil Marshak  Lidia Chukovskaya  Boris ZHitkov  Leonid Panteleev  Lev Kassil | 2  4  4  3  1 | 1  1  1  1  1 |  |
| Leonid Panteleev | Georgy Belyh  Lidia Chukovskaya  Evgeny Shvartz  Boris Zhitkov | 4  3  3  3 | 1  1  1  1 |  |
| Lidia Chukovskaya | Korney Chukovsky  Frida Vigdorova  Tamara Gabbe  Samuil Marshak  Nora Gal  Ljubov Kabo  Max Bremener  Benedict Sarnov  Lev Kassil  Leonid Panteleev  Alexander Sharov  Alexandra Brushtein  Alexander Raskin  Susanna Georgievskaya  Maria Prilezhaeva  Georgy Belyh  Boris Zhitkov | 4  5  5  3  1  2  3  3  1  3  1  3  3  4  1  1  4 | 1  1  1  1  2  1  1  1  1  1  1  2  1  1  1  2  1 |  |
| Frida Vigdorova | Alexander Raskin  Lidia Chukovskaya  Nora Gal  Alexandra Brushtein  Alexander Sharov  Lubov Kabo  Susanna Georgievskaya  Korney Chukovsky  Samuil Marshak  Max Bremener  Evgeny Shvartz  Tamara Gabbe  Alexey Panteleev  Lev Kassil  Anatoly Alexin  Iosif Dik | 5  5  5  3  3  3  4  2  1  3  1  3  1  1  2  1 | 1  1  1  1  1  1  1  2  2  1  3  2  2  1  1  1 |  |
| Konstantin Paustovksy | Lev Kassil  Iosif Dik  Max Bremener  Yuri Trifonov  Benedikt Sarnov | 2  4  3  2  2 | 1  1  1  1  1 |  |
| Lev Kassil | Iosif Dik  Max Bremener  Yakov Akim  Lidia Chukovskaya  Frida Vigdorova  Anatoly Alexin  Valentin Kataev  Konstantin Paustovsky  Alexandra Brushtein  Tamara Gabbe  Benedict Sarnov | 2  3  1  1  1  4  3  2  1  1  2 | 1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1 |  |
| Max Bremener | Lidia Chukovskaya  Frida Vigdorova  Benedikt Sarnov  Yuri Sotnik  Yakov Akim  Iosif Dik  Yuri Trifonov  Lev Kassil  Valentin Kataev | 3  3  4  4  1  3  3  3  1 | 1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  2 |  |
| Maria Prilezhaeva | Lev Kassil  Valentin Kataev  Max Bremener  Lidia Chukovskaya | 1  1  1  1 | 1  1  2  1 |  |
| Valentin Kataev | Lev Kassil  Maria Prilezhaeva  Samuil Marshak  Korney Chukovsky  Max Bremener  Lidia Chukovskaya | 3  1  1  2  1  1 | 1  1  1  1  2  2 |  |
| Iosif Dik | Konstantin Paustovsky  Lev Kassil  Max Bremener  Yakov Akim  Yuri Trifonov  Benedict Sarnov | 4  2  3  2  3  2 | 1  1  1  1  1  1 |  |
| Anatoly Alexin | Lev Kassil  Frida Vigdorova | 4  2 | 1  1 |  |
| Yuri Trifonov | Max Bremener  Iosif Dik  Benedict Sarnov  Lev Kassil  Konstantin Paustovsky | 3  3  3  1  2 | 1  1  1  1  1 |  |
| Yakov Akim | Iosif Dik  Benedikt Sarnov  Max Bremener | 2  1  1 | 1  1  1 |  |
| Alexander Sharov | Frida Vigdorova  Lev Kassil  Max Bremener  Korney Chukovsky  Alexandra Brushtein  Benedict Sarnov  Iosif Dik  Yakov Akim | 3  1  1  3  3  3  1  1 | 1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1 |  |
| Alexandra Brushtein | Frida Vigdorova  Lubov Kabo  Nora Gal  Lev Kassil  Lidiya Chukovskaya | 3  2  2  1  1 | 1  1  1  1  1 |  |
| Nora Gal | Frida Vigdorova  Alexandra Brushtein  Tamara Gabbe | 5  3  2 | 1  1  1 |  |
| Lubov Kabo | Frida Vigdorova  Lidiya Chukovskaya  Max Bremener | 3  3  1 | 1  1  1 |  |
| Susanna Georgievskaya | Lidiya Chukovskaya  Frida Vigdorova  Tamara Gabbe | 4  4  5 | 1  1  1 |  |
| Benedict Sarnov | Iosif Dik  Max Bremener  Lidiya Chukovskaya  Yakov Akim  Lev Kassil  Frida Vigdorova  Alexander Sharov  Konstantin Paustovsky | 2  4  3  1  2  2  3  2 | 1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Table 2. Institutional configuration.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Gorky Literary Institute | “Youth” journal (editorial board and influential figures) | Leningrad branch of “Detgiz” publishing house | Moscow Bureau of the Children’s Section (Writer’s Union) |
| Lev Kassil (professor) | Valentin Kataev (editor-in-chief) | Samuil Marshak (editor-in-chief) | Lev Kassil (chief) |
| Konstantin Paustovsky (professor) | Maria Prilezhaeva (editorial board) | Lidiya Chukovskaya (editor) | Frida Vigdorova |
| Yuri Trifonov | Samuil Marshak (editorial board) | Tamara Gabbe (editor) | Lidiya Chukovskaya |
| Max Bremener | Lev Kassil (influential figure) | Leonid Panteleev (author) | Alexander Sharov |
| Iosif Dik | Korney Chukovsky (influential figure) | Evgeniy Shvartz (author) | Alexandra Brushtein |
|  |  | Boris Zhitkov (author) | Nora Gal |
|  |  |  | Tamara Gabbe |
|  |  |  | Lubov Kabo |
|  |  |  | Susanna Georgievskaya |
|  |  |  | Max Bremener |
|  |  |  | Iosif Dik |
|  |  |  | Yakov Akim |
|  |  |  | Valentin Kataev |
|  |  |  | Korney Chukovsky |
|  |  |  | Samuil Marshak |
|  |  |  | Maria Prilezhaeva |
|  |  |  | Anatoly Aleksin |

Table 3. Circles of friends.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| “Mature” women-writers | Young men-writers |
| Tamara Gabbe  Frida Vigdorova  Susanna Georgievskaya  Lidiya Chukovskaya  Nora Gal | Max Bremener  Benedict Sarnov  Yuri Trifonov  Iosif Dik  Yakov Akim |