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HUMANISTIC ILLUSTRATION OF OLEKSA DOVBUSH FIGURE IN PROSE OF UKRAINIAN AUTHORS OF XX CENTURY

Ukrainian literature has always been closely linked to national life of people. Especially strong are these relationships in revolutionary or transitional time when rotten foundations of the old social structures are falling and there is a struggle between new and old for life and death.

The aim of the paper is to understand the contribution of Ukrainian writers of the XX century to the image of folk hero Oleksa Dovbush, illustration of humanistic pathos of the image, characteristic of folk leader's activity, which shows him as the representative of the humanistic behavior among opryshky.

In its socio-economic and socio-legal status Hutsulshchyna experienced many difficult centuries. In the second half of XVI – the first half of XVIII century in the Carpathian region, as elsewhere in Rech Pospolita, feudal manufacturing relations dominated. Difficult social and economic situation of farmers at the west Ukrainian lands was the reason of occurrence, distribution and deployment of anti-serfdom opryshky movement in XVI – the first half of XVIII century.

The apogee of the opryshky movement was the activity of Oleksa Dovbush and his associates. G. Hotkevych, Yu. Shkrumelyak, I. Yerofeiv, G. Smolskyi, V. Gzhytskyi, R. Fedoriv, B. Zagorulko, R. Yendyk, V. Volkov, V. Bosovych and others devoted their talented works to this particular outstanding person. Common and different in views on the figure of people's avenger, historical (life) and artistic truth, aesthetic and stylistic features of works – these and other problems need a system literary review.

Writers had a different imagination of Oleksa Dovbush. Some gave more attention to folklore reveal of the image. Others basing on historical data formed a new hero, while the third tried to show almost documentary evidence and people. I. Erofieiev belongs to the latter, in his historical novel "Oleksa Dovbush" he portrayed socioeconomic circumstance of that time, living conditions of Ukrainian people under the rule of Polish, Hungarian and Ukrainian exploiters.

In our opinion, this behavior of Oleksa is totally justified. Despite the fact that was a brave leader, fearless warrior, ruthless to the enemies, but also he was an ordinary man with his flaws and weaknesses. That is how, to our mind the author of the story wanted to show Dovbush.

Thus, humanism of Oleksa Dovbush image found a reflection in the prose heritage of Ukrainian writers of the twentieth century. This is primarily explained due to the fact that every work of art has to educate the reader on a subconscious level. Ethical function is closely related to aesthetic, so emotional and intellectual pleasure, which is experienced by the reader, is often a direct consequence of the fact which moral demands, solutions of ethical conflicts are satisfied by the author. In the future we plan to consider other aspects of the literary Dovbushiany analysis.