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AXIOLOGY OF SACRIFICE IN YU. MUSHKETYK'S HISTORICAL PROSE

The concept of "sacrifice" in the "Dictionary of the Ukrainian language" except "is intended for the victim", "associated with sacrifice" means "full of self-sacrifice, selflessness". In Yu. Mushketyk's historical fiction we observe the heroes' sacrifice, dedication of their life for a great idea, service good and justice. Polysemantic lexeme "betrayal" (transition to the enemy; breach of fidelity in love, friendship; rejection of your beliefs, attitudes) is realized in the author's works on the national level: with the meaning of treason against the homeland. In view of this opposition the heroes of the writer's historical fiction are divided into two opposing groups: patriots, capable of self-sacrifice, and betrayers.

The problem of conscious choice, which is a foundation of each person's existence, is a basis of this division. Human life comes down to conscious choice in the philosophy of existentialism. The existential foundation of this category is based on internal conflict and external contradictions. The heroes of Yu. Mushketyk's historical prose always fall into the situation of life choice, and it acquires the features of characters' peculiar trials for strength of spirit, humanity, justice or meanness, selfishness and callousness.

The value of sacrifice and its antipode betrayal by the deepening into the characters' sense of spiritual and material life, rise to the level of philosophical categories. They are in the result of symbolic generalizations become a kind of moral and ethical criteria, that determine not only the meaning of human life and his life priorities, but also the entire depth of his essence.

The writer defines sacrifice as a high moral value of human existence and activity, whereas betrayal is a kind of moral falling of personality. The formation of these concepts in his novels is closely related to life problems, conscious choice and meaning of life. The separation of heroes of the author's historical novels and stories to patriots and traitors is made on this basis; each of them chooses their life ways. The above mentioned categories do not only define the essence of the characters, but also contribute to their introspection and recession in the most hidden corners of their souls. In addition, the education of moral qualities on the example of historical figures and events is very important nowadays, because it promotes the formation of historical thinking of person, the augmenting of the spiritual experience of humanity, the promoting of uplifting of patriotic spirit of Ukrainian and the enrichment of their national consciousness. In connection with this history for Yu. Mushketyk – "... is not a stepmother, and it is a mother. And in history he found and find the answers to questions, that trouble his literary conscience".