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## PSYCHOLOGY OF BETRAYAL IN THE NARRATIVE OF B. KHARCHUK “PANKRATS AND YUDKA”

Development of Ukrainian war prose of the 1960–1980s of the XXth century should be considered in the context of artistic innovations of writers of the 60s, with their keen interest in human beings, to the dialectic of the soul, to the problem of man's place in history, its moral choice. War is experienced in the literature as an ontological state, and it determines the other stylistic tonality of war prose: lyrical and romantic style is replaced by psycho-dramatic.

The problem that permanently worries B. Kharchuk is psychology of betrayal. More detailed and convincing the process of a man's moral fall has been traced in one of the strongest narratives of B. Kharchuk “Pankrats and Yudka”. The theme of the work is the persecution of Jews during the Second World War. In the narration is depicted as the population of a small Volyn town is herded into ghettos, young girls are forced to work as servants for German soldiers, the elders fill the dam for the lake that will soon become their grave, the smallest of the children are torn away from their mothers and sent by force to Nazi “sanatorium”.

In the narrative B. Kharchuk reveals profoundly the problem of human life value and proves that even humiliation, creeping and flirting with the enemy did not help the main heroine to survive. The author does not condemn the heroine directly; his position is, first of all, the understanding of the lost human soul. The writer-psychologist reveals the complex dialectic of feelings that lead to the loss of honor and dignity of human nature. As a humanist, the author feels sorrow for the youth destroyed by war, for the girlhood that did not have time to flourish and was trampled in the dirt. The prose-writer does not emphasize the national problematic of his work, and does not consider, obviously, adaptation to circumstances and compliance to the enemy, passivity and lack of will as the characteristic features of Semitic nation. The narrative is apprehended more as a parable. Its content gains universality, since the life material for the story of self-betrayal could serve another material (groveling before the Bolshevik regime, spiritual mercenariness of Ukrainians as, for instance, in the narrative “Death” of B. Antonenko-Davydovych). The reconstructed situation is easily projected onto the history of Ukrainians in the Soviet Empire, and, to our opinion, only definite dependence of the writer from social realism stereotypes, and even more likely – the inner censor – prevented the artistic comprehension of this material by the talented prose-writer.

**Keywords:** psychology of betrayal, ontological condition, anti-human nature of war, moral suicide, the value of life, the parable.