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**MINERS MOTIVES OF «SMALL PROSE»
BY SPYRIDON CHERKASENKO**

The name Spyridon Cherkasenko returns to Ukrainian readers only in recent decades, as though in Soviet times, his name wasn't mentioned not only among the lists of recommended reading, but in general the attention wasn't paid because of the official ban. The writer's «guilt» was that he did not take the consequences of the October Revolution in 1927 and emigrated, settling in the Czech Republic.

So-called «miners» prose wasn't almost investigated by scientists, including stories and «fiction story» «The miners. How to Live and Work in the Mines» (1912). In the studying of works mentioned above, we can see the relevance of this work. The aim of the article is to show the identity of the individual author S. Cherkasenko manner's, to determine the place of «fiction narration» in the author's creative heritage, its social problems. The significant place in the artistic heritage is occupied by prose dedicated to the life of Donetsks' miners.

The subject of this article is fiction story «The Miners. How to Live and Work in the Mines», written by the author in Kiev in 1912, but published only in 1919 as a separate book.

The genre of the fiction stories, towards which the writer pays attention, has given him the opportunity to combine a rod to the essay in the reproduction of miner's life and transmission of the realities of contemporary mine with live images. Draw your attention to the exact picture concerning mine realities: when the main characters get acquainted with the new territory copra is carefully described, then the general view of mine is described, a variety of mechanisms is depicted, the process of descent into the mine is shown in the details, a story about the properties of methane is filed etc. These descriptions are meticulous, detailed, often they seem to be technical reports and suggest that they could only make a person familiar with the miner's lives directly.

The work is full of the miners' vocabulary. These are the official miner's terms which are actual nowadays too (tunnel, pit, trolley, drift, cage, rack), and the obsolete names of occupations (hleyschyky, sanoshnyky, smazchyky, butty) and vernacular names (clay, «oven», rumbles) etc.

In fact, all of the events and descriptions of work submitted through the perception of Mikhaylik – the main character that actually grows up during the story from a little boy, who lost his mother, and came to the mines with his father in the search of work to a confident young man who became the miner.

In the story «The Miners. How to Live and Work in the Mines» as in the most works of S.Cherkasenko, revealed social motives. Disadvantaged childhood is the problem towards which the attention is drawn. The protagonist of the work Mikhaylik wants to study at school, but had to work as hleyschyk (man separating coal from rock ("hleyu"), usually children). In human conditions in which children are forced to work are depicted in the story: hard physical labor, bitter cold, the constant dirt. Mikhaylik is lucky because his father later sends him to the school, but most of hleyschykivs were illiterate.

Expressive social motive in the book is the complex relationship between miners and miners' commanders. The driver announced to Mikhaylik the important life's lesson: «... they all zhyroyidy».

These antagonistic relationships lead to a strike, as described at the end of the work. The main character Mikhaylik, who is already grown up, recognizes for the first time that workers are threatening force to be reckoned with powers: «Our work is our strength, and the greatest force is in unity». These lines are the last, and they tell us about the author's hope of a brighter future.

In fact, it is his typical class's position which is clearly observed in this literary work for a several times, and some lines are the evidence of the author's faith by the coming revolution.

Briefly, this analyzed piece of literature reflects the hard work of Donetsks' miners in the late XIX – early XX centuries, their way of life is described, handed

over the position of miners` children, the necessity for social` change is emphasized in contemporary society.