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THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF DEFINING THE TERM «LITERARY SCHOOL»

At the present stage of development of literary scholarship the term «literary school» is widely used, it was formulated plenty of times, but there is an ambiguous approach to defining its semantics. Ukrainian and foreign literary critics have offered a number of definitions of «literary school», which, however, did not disclose the multiple meaning of the term. Taking this into account, we can spot a problem of theoretical explanation of the «literary school», its understanding and defining, as well as a need to analyze works of literature in historical context and in the context of contemporary literary process with regard to literary schools.

The analysis of the existing meanings of the term «literary school» led to the conclusion that the term was identified with other historical and typological categories of literary process, ranging from the movement and technique to the literary group or club. However, the whole complex of features peculiar for literary school gives reason to assert that the term has its own characteristics and specific content.

Trying to differentiate the literary school and other historical and typological categories of writers' groups we are not intent upon the review and renaming the terms established (for instance, Lake school or Prague school). A large number of criteria for defining literary school should promote clearer outline of the term, but it is also accompanied by the significant number of exceptions, deviations: the school can't have prominent «students», or vice versa, can have several generations; it usually has its ideological leader but may hasn't. Taking into consideration the significant achievements of the predecessors, having analyzed the history of term's emerging, the dominant poetics of certain literary schools in both Ukrainian and foreign literature, we propose a new definition. Literary School is a distinctive artistic phenomenon, one of the historical and typological categories of literary process. Orientation to reach the acme of skills of the outstanding

artistic predecessor or contemporary, common aesthetic unity in style or system of styles, poetics, genre and thematic features are common for authors who form a literary school. A literary school creatively reinterprets previous artistic tradition, creating a new artistic reality.