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**IMAGE OF «SMALL FATHERLAND» IN THE WORKS OF  
A. MALYSHKO AND M. STELMAKH**

Article is dedicated to aesthetic functioning of literary images of «small fatherlands» in the works of Andrij Malyshko and Myhajlo Stelmakh. The aspects of artistic presentation of images of Dnieper and Podillya nature, customs of local people, and the role of folklore are emphasized.

Recently in philological science more attention is paid to the relationship between a literary text and to the living space displayed in it. It is known that the notion of «text» inherently is complex and ambiguous. Been issued by structuralists it acquired new meanings in post-structuralism, deconstruction, post-modernism. Today the category of «text» is not only one of the most popular categories of modern literature, but one of the most controversial.

The image of «small fatherland» for the writer - is the prism through which he reveals his view of the world, attitude to it and to the own «greater fatherland». It is through the image of the «small fatherland» writers convey their love for it and for the whole Ukraine.

The edge of the artist, where he was born and grew, becomes «small» fatherland not only geographically but also spiritually. Every nation has its own image space that is geographically defined, and such one that effects on the structure of the soul, the way of thinking, the way of knowing the world and is displayed from various forms of culture to intimate intonation of micro image.

The local Dnieper concept or Podillya is included in metaimage of Ukraine in lyricist Malyshko and lyricist and epics Stelmakh. Through the theme «small fatherland» writers cleverly gave sincere and pure love for Ukraine as generally, patriotic devotion to the native land. Results and conclusions of the research outline promising scientific directions for the study of literary ethnic imaholohiya of «small fatherlands» in the works of A. Malyshko and M. Stelmakh.