

O. PISAREVA

M. GORKY ON FEATURES OF TYPOLOGY OF CHARACTERS IN RUSSIAN CLASSICAL LITERATURE

In the article for the first time, in a wide context, the author studies M. Gorky's appraisal of Russian classical literary characters, expressed in the series of lectures on the History of literature delivered at the school of party propagandists, organized on Capri in 1909. The lecturer focused on the problem of typology of the characters in the Russian classical literature of XIX century. It should be noted, that against the background of an increased interest to the process of Russian literature development at the turn of XIX - XX centuries, the typology of characters was not considered as a specific literary problem and was presented schematically.

The author outlines the key vectors of interpretation of the concept «a literary type» at the turn of XX century, makes examples from literary criticism and research papers, including M. Gorky's contemporaries' works. The typology of characters presented by the proletarian writer is compared with existing ones in modern literary criticism.

D. N. Ovsyanniko-Kulikovsky, R. V. Ivanov-Razumnik, D. P. Svyatopolk-Mirsky in their historical and literary researches at the turn of the centuries stated the problem of typification and carried out its subsequent complete analysis.

The worthy place in this row is taken by M. Gorky's attempts to comprehend originality, ideological and art essence of the Russian literary program characters. The writer builds his typology on the basis of the class approach, on which the whole system of his historical, literary and theoretical views is based. Hence a particular interest appears to the paradigm Onegin – Pechorin – Chatsky – Belto – Rudin as to the types generated by a noble self-criticism. The historian of literature also pays attention to the term «an odd man out», M. Gorky considers him as far-fetched, driven to the last shifts, whose authors «had stepped over an abnegation border». M. Gorky found the largest merit of «odd men out» in «the doctrine of the

value of a personality», noting that the importance was not even in the question, that had been raised repeatedly and not solved but in timeliness of its statement.

Within the formation of a new literary type known as a hero-commoner, the historian of literature pays attention to «a little person», as an image of a humiliated and offended one.

Gorky's analysis of Russian literature's treatment of «a prostitute, a peasant and other humiliated and offended people» deserves thorough study. Drawing a parallel with the European literatures, he shows qualitatively different treatment of a woman of easy virtue. M. Gorky points out the difference in the attitude of Slavophiles and Westerners to a peasant, and as a result there is a dual perception of a «muzhik» as a character by Russian writers.

M. Gorky's statements are not deprived of subjectivity caused by the class ideology. Thus he doesn't distinguish accurately between the concepts «an image» and «a type», the images of such national defenders as S. Razin and E. Pugachyov he defines as the types. In whole the type of «a noble robber» was remained out of the researcher's attention, as well as the heroines of Russian literature, such as "Turgenev's girls".

In the Capri lectures on «The history of Russian literature» the writer tracked the main literary types' transformations in the historical and literary context. The attempt to show their exclusively national characteristics can be viewed as M. Gorky's special desert.