

T. CHERKASHYNA

IDEOLOGICAL AND LITERARY DOMINATING IDEAS OF THE UKRAINIAN AUTOBIOGRAPHIES OF THE 1990s

Since 1980s the Ukrainian autobiographical prose has come to the new period of its development. For the first time in many years of their life the autobiographers had a chance to write all the truth about their lives, the life of their country and their compatriots.

But only since the 1990s the real memoirs-autobiographical boom has started. In that time lots of Ukrainian memoirs autobiographies such as «Confession In The Condemned Cell» by Levko Lukianenko, «Solo For Maidenly Voice» by Halina Hordasevych, «Museum Of Living Writer Or My Long Way To The Market» by Volodymyr Drozd, «Lived And Said» by Anatolii Dimarov, «Free And Involuntary Roads» by Roman Ivanychuk, «The Greatest Wonder Is Life» by Mykola Rudenko, and others were written. The Ukrainian autobiographical prose of the 1990s synthesized the traditions of the social and psychological autobiographies.

The Ukrainian autobiographers of the 1990s were the people who had very difficult fates. Many of them overcame the Stalin's prisons and camps, so their autobiographies were the autobiographies of struggle, the struggle against the communist system.

The Ukrainian autobiographers of that period said that at the beginning of their life they were typical Soviet citizens, they lived as all, thought as all, dreamt as all. At the certain stages of their life they had intellectual crisis and after interior mental recasting they became opposed to the communist system.

Many of them consciously took the way of undisguised struggle against the communist system. Therefore they lost their jobs, families, friends, became prisoners, lived in camps for a long time. But at the end of their life they didn't regret that they had chosen that way because they helped other people to be free.

The image of the system was one of the principal figures in the Ukrainian autobiographies of this kind. The autobiographers used all literary and stylistic means for representing the communist system and its peculiarities.

The autobiographers established that the main color of this system was grey because the Soviet people led grey life, grey existence, they had grey houses, wore grey clothes, etc.

The communist system meddled with other people's lives, controlled them. So, in the autobiographers' opinion, the system influenced a person deeply, modified his mental essence, and transformed it.

The obligatory appanage of the system was the repressive retributive machinery. Its principal sound description was the knock such as the knock at the door before the arrest, the knock on the wall for communicating with other prisoners, etc.

On the example of their lives the autobiographers showed the enlargement and the contraction of a typical Soviet citizens' personal space. The enlargement of the personal space was concerned with arrests, staying in prisons and camps, impossibility to travel freely inland and abroad. At the same time even infrequent trips across the country widened the personal space and were remembered by a person for a long time.

So the Ukrainian autobiographical prose of the 1990s was an original and distinctive phenomenon of the Ukrainian self-writing.