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MARS AND MUSES. POETRY IN THE TIME OF WAR

МАРС І МУЗИ. ПОЕЗІЯ ПІД ЧАС ВІЙНИ

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Introduction. In the times of social catastrophes, art (and literature, in particular) often flourishes, as is proven by history. In Ukraine, there has been an essential increase of works published since February 24, 2022. Moreover, among the genres that are popular, the ones with the emotional reflection (lyrical poems, essays, diaries) prevail. Hence, there is the need to understand why poetry as the main implementation of emotional reflection is widely spread, and to analyse this tendency in the general context. The aim of the research is to study the reasons of popularity and the main tendencies of the military poetry of the russian-Ukrainian war (since February 24, 2022).

Upon studying the historical process of European literature, a conclusion is made by N. Havrylyuk, that it starts with the military narrative: «*Sing, O goddess, the anger of Achilles son of Peleus, that brought countless ills upon the Achaeans*» («Iliad», translated by S. Butler), as the Trojan War epic retelling unravels. Moreover, as the scientist suggests, in «Iliad» the war is depicted in the negative light [1]. However, Homer wasn't a contemporary of the war, and gave but a fictional reflection on the events. On the contrary, the ancient Greek poet Archilochus served as a military mercenary, and wrote a number of satirical poems, closely connected to the military service: «I am the servant of Lord Enyalios [Ares, god of war], and skilled in the lovely gift of the Muses».

In the 20th century, the emotional catastrophe of the First World War became vivid in the poetry of «the Lost Generation» even before its ending. The most famous poem of the period, «In Flanders Fields» by John McCrae, was written in 1915, less than a year after the war began. The novels by E. Remark, E. Hemingway needed more time for the military narrative to be comprehended and evaluated, while poetry, rooted in subjective experience, provided reflection almost instantly.

Military tradition is authentic for Ukrainian culture. Ye. Malanyuk, upon analysing the historical documents of the 6th c. AD, explains that the agricultural tribes even then occupied the «military essence», not yet having a state one [3]. I. Kotlyarevskyi, according to this biography, can be considered the first «veteran» poet of the new Ukrainian literature, and used his own military experience in «Aeneid», and in a number of other poems. The 20th century is an important historical period of Ukrainian military poetry, with the poets of Ukrainian Sich Riflemen, the literature of the Executed Renaissance that took inspiration from national liberation movements of 1917-1922, the Second World War and the after war decade.

Undoubtedly, the military poetry after February 24 has the strongest connection with the literature created since 2014, i.e. the beginning of the first phase of the russian-Ukrainian war. Thanks to professional artists and the voices of the young generation, poetry became popular during the Revolution of Dignity and later on, ATO, with artists reading their poetic works to soldiers and to civil people during literary festivals. Borys Humenyuk, called «the poet born in war», commented: «Until 2014 there had been no such poet as Borys Humenyuk, and there would've never been, if it weren't for the war. I wish such a poet never existed, and this war never did» [4], underlining the idea of non-professional writers joining the fictional discourse after the start of the war.

Among the artists who became the front people of Ukrainian military poetry, are professional writers, like Serhiy Zhadan, Kateryna Kalytko, Vasyl Makhno, Halyna Kruk and others. There is also a vast category of writers like Pavlo Vyshebababa, Yaryna Chornohuz, Maksym Kryvtsov who follow B. Humenyuk's experience, being the poets and the combatants at the same. Overall, the popularity of military poetry is proved by the number of «solo» poetry collections and anthologies («Весна озброєна», «Війна 2022: щоденники, есеї, поезія», «Воєнний стан», «Поміж сирен») published since February 24, 2022, as well as the immensely increasing number of poems uploaded to a web server «Поезія вільних» («Poetry of the free»).

What are the main reasons for these processes? As in the earlier examples of history, modern military poetry provides an opportunity for instant emotional reflection on the war. For Halyna Kruk, poetry is a specific diary, thanks to which «one can remember what happened, their state, their quick reflections on the events» [7]. It is worth mentioning that poetry is more likely to find its audience almost instantly, if published on-line. Moreover, short literary genres are more suitable for the culture of social media, which enables unique intermedia connections in modern literature [2]. O. Pukhonska also comments that poetry provides art-therapy, essential in the times of war. However, it is in contradiction with the experience of «re-traumatisation through poetry» [5].

Among the pieces of poetry published within the mentioned time period, certain tendencies are observed. The majority of the works follows monothematic narrative, concentrating on military discourse. The imagological issues such as the vivid division between «Self» and «Other» («Enemy») are also present. The spontaneity, caused by the concept of instant reflection, and the non-fictional speech elements influence the peculiarities of poetic language, syntax, form (specifically, short sentences, obscene language, naturalistic descriptions, that are not so typical in poetry) [7]. The phenomenon of an unprofessional author, caused by people starting to write only after the war started, in some of its negative expressions, can be viewed as graphomania.

War makes an immense impact on the world and the world-view. For instance, the First World War influenced literature in a way that «flowery Victorian language was blown apart and replaced by more sinewy and R-rated prose styles» [8]. It also dictated the development of existential and expressionistic movements. Nowadays, it is hard to predict what the after war literature will be like, but it is taking its shape now, undoubtedly.

To conclude it all, it should be underlined that modern Ukrainian military poetry continues the long tradition of military fiction, and is closely connected with the same samples of different historical periods. Ukrainian military poetry has been presented in a number of single poetry collections and anthologies, and an even larger number of works have been published online where it finds the audience almost immediately. Poetry impacts on emotions, providing art-therapy or, on the other hand, bringing back the traumatic experience. Modern military poetry (since February 24, 2022) is marked by the strong presence of military narrative, peculiar images and poetic language. The tendency of publishing the unprofessional authors, who've started writing only during the full-scale war, also remains vivid. Lastly, the main task of modern literary studies is to observe the development of the new wave of military fiction in Ukraine, to study its features, and to try to predict the changes it will cause in the literature of the future.

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REPRESENTATION OF THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN WAR IN THE WORKS OF VALERIY PUZIK

ЗОБРАЖЕННЯ РОСІЙСЬКО-УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ ВІЙНИ У ТВОРЧОСТІ ВАЛЕРІЯ ПУЗІКА

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Так склалося, що упродовж віків історичні події так чи інакше впливають на літературний процес. Цю тенденцію сучасний український читач може помітити і зараз. Події, які відбуваються сьогодні в Україні, мають значний вплив на сучасну літературу. Війна породила пласт творів на воєнну тематику, написаних письменниками-учасниками бойових дій. Досліджуючи літературні твори воєнного періоду варто зазначити, що «війна – це не лише біль, жах, руйнування та смерть, а ще й потужний каталізатор для розвитку літератури» [2, с. 277].

Серед сучасних авторів яскравою постаттю є Валерій Пузик – письменник, художник, режисер і журналіст. У січні 2015 року пішов на фронт у складі добровольчого батальйону «Правого сектору». Протягом військової служби йому довелося пережити жакливі моменти, які потім