

## SECTION 2. LITERATURE

DOI <https://doi.org/10.30525/978-9934-26-431-3-3>

### RETHINKING THE GREAT WAR: THE POETICS OF ANTHONY DOERR'S NOVEL «ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE»

### ПЕРЕОСМИСЛЕННЯ ВЕЛИКОЇ ВІЙНИ: ПОЕТИКА РОМАНУ Е. ДОРРА «ВСЕ НЕЗРИМЕ ВАМ СВІТЛО»

**Bezhan O. A.**

*Candidate of Philological Sciences,  
Associate Professor at the Department  
of foreign literature  
Odesa I. I. Mechnikov National  
University  
Odesa, Ukraine*

**Бежан О. А.**

*кандидат філологічних наук,  
доцент кафедри зарубіжної  
літератури  
Одеський національний університет  
імені І. І. Мечникова  
м. Одеса, Україна*

One of the main features of the literature formation in the 21st century is that its development falls on a period of changes not only in the cultural life of society, but also in the socio-economic and political its part. This is due to the fact that usually the process of changing one century to another is accompanied by serious changes arising from the worldview of the new period and gives an opportunity to look at the past events critically and with a new perspective. Studying the events of the Second World War in general from different perspectives helps us better understand them and find effective ways to prevent them in the future.

The researching of post-war events in A. Doerr's novel “All the Light We Cannot See” provides an opportunity to understand the cultural characteristics of each side of the conflict, in the book all events are shown through a unique experience, from the child’s point of view. This allows critics and researchers to better understand how war affects people, especially those who are most vulnerable. In his novel, A. Doerr tries to focus not on the characters’ political beliefs, but on their personal qualities, which are manifested regardless of external circumstances. In the novel there is genuine humanity, courage, self-sacrifice, but at the same time we see hopelessness, meanness, powerlessness of people. The novel was

immediately well received by critics, and a few weeks after its release it became a bestseller and held that position for thirty-three weeks.

Anthony Doerr is a writer-researcher. The main feature of his works is the extraordinary detailing of events, which completely envelops the reader and allows him to fully immerse himself in this huge book world. As to the genre, this book is a historical novel based on the events of the Second World War, the period between 1939 and 1941. It was the war that became the main means through which the author dared to show the life of peaceful people in that period, namely the teenagers of Marie-Laura and Werner. The climax of the novel is the siege of Saint-Malo in August 1944. At that time, both Werner and Marie-Laura were in this city. German troops besiege the city and Marie-Laura's uncle is arrested, remains completely alone she would have been doomed if Werner had not responded to her request for help on the radio: «*He is a ghost. He is from some other world. He is Papa, Madame Manec, Etienne; he is everyone who has left her finally coming back. Through the panel he calls, «I am not killing you. I am hearing you. On radio. Is why I come».* He pauses, fumbling to translate. «*The song, light of the moon?»*» *She almost smiles*» [2, p. 468].

The book is actually not about war, but about peace. The author wanted to show the other side of the events that shook Europe more than half a century ago. This is a story of amazing willpower, zest for life, and how small actions can have global consequences in an era of historical upheaval. The author constantly brings the reader to the thought: “war as a phenomenon is inevitably finite and there will be those who were able to carry their own invisible light through the years of darkness and the pain of loss for the sake of a peaceful life” [1]. Telling about the events that are happening already in our time, A. Doerr reminds the witnesses of the greatest catastrophe of the 20th century still alive among us and each of them has its own unique story.

#### **Bibliography:**

1. Callil C. All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr review – a story of morality, science and Nazi occupation // The Guardian, 2014. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/may/17/all-the-light-we-cannot-see-anthony-doerr-review>
2. Doerr A. All the light we cannot see. London: 4<sup>th</sup> Estate, 2014. 531 p.