

**Modern Ukrainian Prose and Christian Dimension of Existence**

Modern Ukrainian literature is the definition which refers to relatively large time span, although in many educational establishments the study of “modern literature” ends with the creative work of the generation of 1960s or comes to the early nineties. Later period and current literary process come up mainly to the attention of literary critics, commentators who write reviews for printed and electronic media; as for the academic discourse, both the mentioned period and process are presented in the dissertations that do not become known to the public. However, among researchers who addressed the phenomenon of modern literature T. Hundorova’s and N. Zborowska’s works, the works of author of one of the recent studies in this direction S. Filonenko, the textbook written by N. Lebedyntseva should be mentioned. In any case, the study of modern Ukrainian literature should be defined as a topical one and important for the formation of an objective history of national literature development.

If the study of modern literature in general is considered to be perspective, extremely wide field of research includes the study of religious imagery, mutual influence of religious and secular worldviews, religious manifestations in post-postmodern discourse, etc. As S. Bohdan states in his thoughtful exploration dedicated to modern Ukrainian poetry, the attempts of the representatives of young literary generation to disclose the issue of the human’s relationship with God allow us to talk about “original informative geocentricism”, which is not always characterised by Christian colouring. It is rather an attempt to build a personal relationship with God without claiming for it to be universal and obligatory.

The analysis of the works written by Ukrainian prose writers T. Antypovych, S. Zhadan and T. Malyarchuk allows to ascertain the presence of the Christian philosophy in the texts of modern literature. Christian dimension of existence is revealed through a series of images and fundamental oppositions, one of the most important of

which is the opposition of being successful and being an outsider. These signals come from the texts, the main characters of which are considered typical losers from the viewpoint of society (or, to use a more traditional Christian term – “world”). However, these images are marked by the authors positively, according to Christian doctrine, where reward and bliss are not associated with lifetime, with something mundane but with the posthumous life of the person. During their life the characters have to undergo a series of trials and suffering, that is a kind of imitation Christ (the fight against criminals in the story *Loch* by T. Antypovych, raiders in the novel *Voroshylovgrad* by S. Zhadan and violent society in *Zviroslovy* written by T. Malyarchuk). Although at the end of the trials the characters usually do not leave this world that is they are still here, except for the heroine of the story *Zviroslovy* who supposedly mastered the kingdom of heaven, which, however, was not the main goal of her desires.

Therefore, we can say that the use of Christian imagery and Christian philosophical systems in the artistic world of modern Ukrainian writers has purely practical application character, being a material for creating own mythological system, but not deep mastering of the spirit and practice of Christianity.