

**New realism in new circumstances: *Skype-mama***

This article is dedicated to the appearance of a new type of anthology, which could be defined as a social project. The genre of anthology has become a quite popular in contemporary Ukrainian literature. Over the last 20 years the number of anthologies rapidly increased. An anthology regarded not only as a publishing genre, but also as a literary one. It is treated as a means of rapid reaction to the changes which take place on a contemporary literary scene.

The article analyzes an anthology compiled by Marjana Savka and Kati Brunner and titled *Skype-mama*, which was published in Lviv in 2013. Instead of traditional anthological collection this one is not a gathering of previously written and published literary works. All of the works included into this issue were written by demand by contemporary Ukrainian writers such as Halyna Kruk, Halyna Malyk, Nataalka Sniadanko, Oksana Lushchevska, Marianna Kijanovska, Oleksandr Havrosh, Serhiy Hrydin, Tania Maliarchuk, Natalia Guseeva, Oksana Lutsyshyna and Valentyn Berdt.

The main problem described in the anthology *Skype-mama* is a communicative gap between adults and children in a postcolonial and post-totalitarian situation in contemporary Ukraine facing a threat of a new colonialism and new totalitarianism. A literary turn to the social problems occurs via realistic poetics but using also achievements of postmodernism. To the most common features of new realistic writing belong such principles as mimetic depiction of reality, “pathos of authenticity”, “truth” and “sincerity”, what means to “represent things as existing, and circumstances as being so” (by Cregory Currie).

The emotional tone of short stories collected in the anthology mostly comes down to compassion and empathy. Literary characters are victims rather than heroes. They experience tragedy and crisis in a narrow family circle, and a central conflict is mainly built on the basis of psychological tension. Thus, the main feature of man is sensuality,

which has awakened at one time sentimentalism. Mykhail Bakhtin was one of the first who described symptoms of a “new sensibility”. In particular, he spoke about the attention to small and weak man, the rejection of the exaltation of brute force, grandeur, heroism and so on. He also emphasized compassion, empathy and mourning as the basic mechanisms of perception of such literature. Details are particularly important in these kind of literary works. This is what we can see in many works published in the anthology. The central characters of sentimental literature are child, woman, stranger, and beggar, that is, those who still often was in the social periphery.

As stated in the publication, the anthology *Skype-mama* is designed for teens. In many works, the central image is the image of the child. However, this image is very complex, and it has been presented in European literature at least since the Enlightenment. But Nail Postman claimed a childhood is disappearing in West culture beginning with 1980s, what means that modern media give equal access to cultural products both children and adults. Margatet R. Marshall emphasized that a thematic repertoire of children’s literary has been dramatically changed during last decades. Instead the journey into the world of fantasy, literature is trying to become a “guiding thread” in the real world.

However, the child is the main image not in all the works included into anthology. The authors also depict adults who are experiencing social, communicative and psychological crisis. As a result, the anthology looks both too adult as for children and too infant as for adults. This is rather a project of social dialogue, which invited both adults and children. This dialogue is not only about the problems of modern society, but also about the role of literature in their coverage and resolution. Return to realistic writing confirming the notion by Catherine Belsey that “all known cultures include stories”. The works included into anthology represent a contemporary fiction in a new realistic manner with a tangible portion of sensibility.