

The ABC-Book of Our Time: Between Sacral and Profane

The perspectives of fragmentary state of existence onto human being and activity continue to attract the attention of philosophers and cultural scientists, physicists and mathematicians, theorists of literature and linguists.

Shifts and breaks associated with the change of cultural paradigms in the last decade of the 20th century are explained by the birth of “a dynamic image of a new reality”, recorded in the recent discoveries, as H. Kuchumova admits have led to the displacement of the semantic accents and the development of a new hierarchy of the significant cultural values. The researcher names “the theory of identity” by Zh. Lakan, “the effect of reality” by R. Bart, and “the rediscovery of time” by I. Prihozyn and H. Haken as the factors of the transition from a static picture of the world, and at the same time the evidence of a complicated state of culture.

Attempts to understand and articulate the situation of the formation of new cultural patterns in the projection on the structure of the contemporary prose appeal to the works by R. Bart, Zh. Batai, U. Eco, A. Mol, M. Foucault and other notionalists. To our mind, it is interesting to observe how artistically the principle of alphabetic integrity of separate elements in postmodern model of thinking is played. The issue of separate authors' creativity has drawn attention of N. Beliaiev, M. Lypovetskyi, A. Tatarenko, S. Sheiko-Malenkykh and other researchers.

The purpose of the article is to outline the versions of the texts-alphabets in constructs of the modern epic poetry, to highlight the interaction of sacred and profane beginnings in art modeling of the texts-alphabets. The article does not claim to cover all the material: the paper presents examples of works that determine the study of texts-alphabets as multiple narratives and subjects to discussion. Works by O. Syvun, T. Tolstaia, Yu. Izdryk, V. Yeshkiliev and O. Hutsuliak serve as a material for the observations.

The problem of cosmogonic symbolism of letters and the principle of their combination has a long history and goes far beyond the philological science, tending

rather to the sphere of philosophy. Semantically a Greek lexeme *stoicheion* is connected with understanding a letter as a dependent part of certain integrity, “line”.

In ancient Ukrainian literature several collections of basic rules to achieve peace of mind were known and namely *Spiritual Alphabet* by D. Tuptalo, *Spiritual Alphabet to monks and the secular* by I. Kosynskyi, *Conversation, named Alphabet or ABC of Peace* by H. Skovoroda.

Understanding of alphabetical integrity and letter metaphor obtained its own esoteric meaning. For example, the symbols of the Hebrew alphabet were thoroughly investigated by supporters of Kabbalistic teaching. Further development of philosophical thought highlighted this problem and led to its relevance and novelty.

So-called “philological prose”, widespread in the 1920s, took various artistic expressions at the turn of 20th – 21th centuries. The story by V. Makanin *The letter “A”* epigraph from *Kotlovan* by A. Platonov serves as an intertextual marker that highlights social problems of the contemporary work.

Research of Perfection by a Serbian writer Sava Damianov, according to the point of view of the interpreter and theorist of the literature A. Tatarenko, is structurally divided into five parts, each of which corresponds to the letter of the Greek alphabet.

The novel by V. Yeshkiliev and O. Hutsuliak *Adept* suggests interpretation of metaphysical essence of the sign system, which highlights the cosmogonic perspective. The sign appears to be a philosophical category that becomes as a subject to reconsideration. The work presents a universal analogical word for chaos and order, light and darkness.

The heroine in the work by D. Kish *Encyclopedia of the Dead* on behalf of whom the story is told appeared for one night in the Swiss Royal library, each room of which was dedicated to one letter. In D. Kish’s story the view of uniqueness of each individual and unique way of life of each person is discussed, i.e. micro story.

Consequently, in modern literature anthropocentric model of constructing texts-alphabets is still relevant. If, for example, O. Syvun creates a mosaic of life of

our young contemporaries through letters as simulacra brands, then D. Kish highlights the most existential and philosophical content of letter metaphor.

Creating texts-alphabets and their subsequent reconstruction are seen as peculiar manifestation of rhetorical strategies, which conveys confusion of a lonely person, using the words of T. Eliot, on the waste land. In further publications we plan to continue observing catalogued constructs of the postmodern literature.