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**Creativity on the Border of Literature, Philosophy and Theology
(in John Bunyan and Hryhorii Skovoroda's works)**

The actuality of comparative studies of the creative manner of the brightest authors of philosophical prose of England and Ukraine of XVII – XVIII centuries, John Bunyan (1612-1688) and Hryhorii Skovoroda (1722-1794) is caused by a number of interests for carrying out of the typological comparison of facts. The artistic achievement of both writers is a prime example of the interaction of secular and religious genres, as it appears on the border between literature, philosophy and theology genre space, reflecting the mature cultural requirements for their own age under prevailed human knowledge at the time.

The purpose of the article is to consider the works of John Bunyan and Hryhorii Skovoroda as bright and creative representatives of spiritual quest of English and Ukrainian Baroque literature amid historical and cultural processes of the age. The objective of this research is the characteristic of artistic manner of artists, the originality of genre works and influence of the cultural environment on the formation of their world view. Scientific novelty lies in the comparative reading of the artistic style of John Bunyan and Hryhorii Skovoroda, identifying common core of the artists' religious and philosophical platform and individual authors' methods of artistic expressing with the prospects of aesthetic and philosophical priorities of European people of the age of the Baroque in the religious literature. The research methodology involves the use of theoretical achievements of interdisciplinary studies and methodological principles of literary hermeneutics, receptive aesthetics, cultural anthropology.

Adequacy of comparison of these writers' creative works is due to a number of factors. Their religious and philosophical prose is written in the field of the age of the Baroque artistic searches (emblematicism, complex metaphors, dramatization, etc.), in spite of the traditional for literature of the Baroque pessimism, their creativity inherent

expressive satirical and optimistic beginning, the both belong to the original aesthetic and philosophical points of view, where allegory takes place as a method of understanding Scripture and artistic expression of their ideas; Hryhoriy Skovoroda is closed to the protestant religious mindset, the concept of ideal personality in the works of John Bunyana and Hryhoriy Skovoroda is a unique phenomenon and for English and Ukrainian literature, each of the analyzed authors accomplishes spiritual quests of the age of the Baroque in his national literature of his own country.

Both writers professed nomadic style of life in search of the truth in thinking about the appointment of a person, as a result of it their work focuses on the problem of Man, his nature and destiny, the sense of life in the context of religious criticism and the view on the person as a part of the world (microcosm). They pick out the principle of religious freedom and the freedom of conscience in religious matters.

The heritage of John Bunyan and Hryhoriy Skovoroda refers to a variety of religious and philosophical prose that is a synthetic type of the genre of fiction and poetry, christian publicistic writing and philosophy.

Hryhoriy Skovoroda's works represent philosophical *dialogues*: *Narkis* ("Наркіс..."), *Alkiviadska Icon* ("Ікона Алківіадська"), *Lotov's wife* ("Жена Лотова"), *Bishop Michael's swearing with Satana* ("Брань архистратига Михаїла со Сатаною"), etc.; sermons: *Convincing seeing His Glory* ("Убедися видеши славу его"), *Kissing me from your kissing lips* ("Да лобжет мя от лобзаній уст своїх!") late 1760's poems (the collection *Garden of Divine songs*, the songs written in 1760-1770s years), fables (*Kharkov Fables*, 1774), translated from New Latin poetry and Roman prose.

In John Bunyan's works, on the one hand, we see an active reference to allegorical images that were popular in his days and were often traditional school drama characters: Prudence, Piety, Charity as an expression of benevolence, false witnesses Envy, Superstition, Pickthank as the personification of vices, Destinate, Pliable, Timorous, Mistrust as a feature of people's character (*Palmer's way* – "Путь

паломника”). On the other hand, they ascertain the deviation from the medieval allegorical thinking because the author was able to give to all the characters bright life features.

Gregory Skovoroda's creativity also moved beyond traditional Ukrainian literature at the time, because he differed by distinct religious criticism, however, without religious controversy. John Bunyan's works reflected the ideas of English baptism, and he was imprisoned for 12 years for it, but the Ukrainian author always remained in Russian Orthodox Church. However, he was subjected to all sorts of harassment many times for the way of expressing of his religious beliefs views.

Comparative study of philosophical and religious views of John Bunyan and Hryhoriy Skovoroda requires a deeper research in the thesis. Religious worldview component of the Ukrainian thinker is studied not enough, due to Soviet attitudes and the lack of special theological training among scientists of those times as a result there was not dominance of cliché, such as a protest against the tsarism, an official religion, self of priests, etc.