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**The symbolic content of the concept “solitude and estrangement” in the novella “Without roots” by Natalena Koroleva and in the novel “The Wine of solitude” by Irene Nemirovsky**

Symbol — is a mental construction that has subjectively objective nature, com- bines moments of objective reflection of reality and the rational and emotional adap- tation of this reflection in the consciousness of an individuality 1. At the same time, a symbol is a material or verbal sign, which indirectly expresses the essence of a certain phenomenon and has philosophical sense content 2. Yu. Popov states, “A symbol is a higher embodiment of the principle of metaphorization, in other words, of a figura- tive meaning” 3.

The symbolic content of the concept “solitude and estrangement” in the novella by Natalena Koroleva “Without roots” and the novel by Irene Nemirovsky “The wine of solitude” will be studied by means of singling out the range of lexemes-symbols, which are significant factors as to determining this concept. N. Ferents states, “The things and nature help to open the world of thoughts and actions, the spiritual and moral essence of a human being in a literary work” 4.

The genealogy of the symbol O. Veselovskyi deduces from parallelism. “Its general type is: the picture of nature and beside it the same picture of human life; as they do not coincide with objective content, they reflect each other” 5.

The symbol, which appears in the title of both contrasted works, carries the indi- vidually authorial meaning. In the native dictionaries of symbols the lexemes ‘roots’ and ‘wine’ are not examined. Thus, the analysis of joined lexemes ‘without roots’ and

1 Кретов П. В. Реальність символічного: символи філософські та візуальні [Електронний ресурс]/П. В. Кретов. – Режим доступу: http://www.nbuv.gov.ua/portal/Soc\_Gum/Vchu/N130/ N130p112–117.pdf. – Назва з титул. Екрану.

2 Літературознавчий словник-довідник [ред.-упоряд. Р. Гром’як та ін.]. – 2-ге вид., виправл., доповн. – К. : ВЦ “Академія”, 2007. – С. 22.

3 Попов Ю. Символ/Ю. Попов//Лексикон загального та порівняльного літературознавства/ за ред. А. Волкова. – Чернівці, 2001. – С. 524.

4 Ференц Н. С. Основи літературознавства: підручник/Н. С. Ференц. – К.: Знання, 2011. – 431 с.

5 Веселовский А. Н. Историческая поэтика/А. Н. Веселовский. – М.: Высшая школа, 1989. – С. 107.

‘the wine of solitude’ requires the deepening into their individually-authorial philo- sophical content.

The doctor Arthur Shefer while looking after Noel, the girl with tuberculosis, — the main hero of the novella “Without roots’, confidently made the diagnose: the girl was dying ‘not of tuberculosis, but of the fact, that she is here without roots, uprooted of her ground and replanted into completely alien one” 1. The doctor’s comparison of Noel with a plant with no roots, evoked in the nurse’s imagination ‘unconscious im- age of a stunted pelargonium in the dried flowerpot, which, in the garden, in the light and warmth, perhaps would be a noticeable ‘colorful stain’ 2. The plant, which dries out without roots, — the symbol of tense mental and emotional state of Noel, the foster child of French South, who cannot take roots in dependent on Russian Empire Ukraine. The girl cannot find common language with indifferent close people, with friends from boarding school, who warily perceive her Catholic religion, moreover, with class mistresses, who cares more about sticking to the rules of etiquette, than about spiritual needs of boarding school-girls. In addition, ignorance of predominant Russian language, and ‘classical absurd’ 3, which made up the whole local educational system, provoke the girl into the feeling of complete estrangement. “She will die not of tuberculosis, I say, but of boredom, of emptiness, of spiritual cold, of lack of spiritual food. In a word, like a plant without roots…” 4, — Arthur Shefer predicted.

The metaphorical expression ‘the wine of solitude’, which is the title of the novel by Irene Nemirovsky, from the rational point of view, conveys two meanings: 1) the light drink, made from grapes, and 2) a complicated psychologic problem of a person, on the emergence of which influence both social and individual factors. Having combined the rational opinions, we can make a conclusion: ‘the wine of solitude’ — a symbol of an emotional state of a lonely person, which is compared to the state of tipsiness. At an early age and her teens Ellen, — the heroine of “The wine of solitude”, suffered from negative manifestations of solitude, which were caused by indifferent attitude of her mother, excessive busyness of her father, the absence of friends, the death of her favorite governess. However, after years, Ellen’s solitude has acquired a new meaning — a positive privacy. The girl realized “No one keeps me, no one calls me. I am free. What joy! […]. I am alone, but my solitude has astringent flavor, it inebriates”5.

1 Королева Н. Без коріння; Во дні они; Quid est Veritas?/Королева Н. Науково-ідеологічний центр ім. Дмитра Донцова. – Дрогобич: Відродження, 2007. – С. 105.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid. – С. 106.

5 Немировськи І. Вино самотності: [роман]/Ірен Немировськи; [з фр. пер. Г. Малець]. – К. : Унів. вид-во Пульсари, 2010. – С. 189.

One of the key symbols, which ensures the content of the concept ‘solitude and estrangement’ in “Without roots’ is the symbol of wall. The author herself reveals semantic characteristics of the word “wall”: “obstacle…, high, cold, stone…” 1. Na- talena Koroleva provides the synonym of the word “wall” the lexeme “stone wall”. If dealing with the context of the novella, one may notice that ‘wall’ is the symbol of complicated cold relationships of Noel and her stepmother. “Well, the stepmother was a big obstacle. Like some high, cold stone wall, which suddenly got in her way” 2.

A special meaning in “The wine of solitude” has the symbol of water, particularly “black water” 3, steaming with “disgusting stench” 4. In “Encyclopedic Dictionary of symbols of Ukrainian culture”, it is explained that turbid water symbolizes betrayal, illness, sorrow, chagrin 5. It should be noted that water and different basins were a repeated metaphor in the works of Irene Nemirovsky; they symbolized death, attacks of a disease, and the hardest ordeals in the main characters’ life. In “The Autumn flies’, water is the symbol of unperceived death of the heroine,— a nanny Tatianna, who, in her old age, was forced to emigrate from Russia to France. “Only when she was standing waist-deep in the Seine, her consciousness fully returned. She felt that she was freezing, wanted to shout, but just crossed herself and her raised hand fell: she was dead” 6. In “The wine of solitude”, the “foul-watered” Neva is connected with the tragic period of Ellen’s life. The period when her family lived in St. Petersburg, when the rela- tionship with her mother reached its climax of negative tension, her favorite governess Rose died, her father was not interested in her emotional state and the girl suffered a lot from her solitude. “Setting her jaw, she faced the darkness, the darkness terrified; it was filled, as it seemed to her, with distorted faces and flows of black water…” 7.

The colors have important symbolic conceptual meaning in “Without roots” and “The wine of solitude”. The days, Noel spent in Kyiv institute for noble maidens, are associated with a grey color. “That is why the days in this place, which were disap- pearing in a grey procession together with the pages of pull-off calendar, looked as if

1 Королева Н. Без коріння; Во дні они; Quid est Veritas?/Королева Н. Науково-ідеологічний центр ім. Дмитра Донцова. – Дрогобич: Відродження, 2007. – С. 87.

2 Ibid.

3 Немировськи І. Вино самотності: [роман]/Ірен Немировськи ; [з фр. пер. Г. Малець]. – К. : Унів. вид-во Пульсари, 2010. – С. 95.

4 Ibid. – С. 60.

5 Енциклопедичний словник символів культури України/за заг. ред. В. П. Коцура, О. І. Потапенка, В. В. Куй біди. – 5-евид. – Корсунь-Шевченківський: ФОП Гавришенко В. М., 2015. – С. 144.

6 Némirovsky I. Les mouches d’automne/I. Némirovsky. – Paris: Grasset, 2005. – Р. 42.

7 Немировськи І. Вино самотності: [роман]/Ірен Немировськи; [з фр. пер. Г. Малець]. – К. : Унів. вид-во Пульсари, 2010. – С. 97.

wearing a ‘formal’ uniform’ 1. The grey color, which is present in the abovementioned metaphorical expression, correlates with ‘boring days’, which ‘the boarding school girls marked in their ‘general notebooks’ only with zeros’ 2. From the point of view of the psychology of color, grey has such negative characteristics as the fear of loss, melancholy, illness, grief, depression. Combining the opposite qualities of black and white, the grey color is regarded as a lonely color, since it lives on the edge of black and white, which “are diametrically opposite symbols of positive and negative’ 3.

A black color, which is mentioned by Irene Nemirovsky in “The wine of solitude” (black sky, black water), almost always is the symbol of darkness, evil, death, devil and others 4. In “The wine of solitude”, the black color is the symbol of loneliness, misfor- tune, grief. “Having closed the door violently, the girl came back to her room, came to the window and with some frightful terror glanced at the black sky, from which the sheets of rain were falling; tears ran down her cheeks…”5.

Natalena Koroleva describes the walking of boarding school-girls along Lypky neighborhood, when it was strictly forbidden to look at passers-by, in the following way: “The black column of boarding schoolgirls usually turned, not reaching the museum, to where they were never taken, and as a dark caterpillar, it crept up again”6. The black color and a dark shade of it are, obviously, not only the reflection of the color of winter clothes of boarding school-girls. They have symbolic meaning — lack and absence of something special in the life of girls. A common desire of girls can prove it: “To pass the exams, to take off a disgusting green camlet dress, as stiff as tin, and to wear my white or light-pink, soft, aromatic, perfumed with “my” perfume and the smell of native “home”…”7.

The image of a window in “Without roots” and “The wine of solitude” is also conceptually recurrent. The authors attach to it a deep philosophical meaning, which helps to reveal the psychological state of the heroines. In literature, the image of a window “often symbolized expectations, hopes that dreams would come true, sad destiny etc.” 8. In general, a window is a symbol of the idea of an insight, potential op-

1 Королева Н. Без коріння; Во дні они; Quid est Veritas?/Королева Н. Науково-ідеологічний центр ім. Дмитра Донцова. – Дрогобич: Відродження, 2007. – С. 85.

2 Ibid.

3 Енциклопедичний словник символів культури України/за заг. ред. В. П. Коцура, О. І. Потапенка, В. В. Куй біди. – 5-евид. – Корсунь-Шевченківський: ФОП Гавришенко В. М., 2015. – С. 67.

4 Ibid. – С. 388.

5 Немировськи І. Вино самотності: [роман]/Ірен Немировськи; [з фр. пер. Г. Малець]. – К.: Унів. вид-во Пульсари, 2010. – С. 66.

6 Королева Н. Без коріння; Во дні они; Quid est Veritas?/Королева Н. Науково-ідеологічний центр ім. Дмитра Донцова. – Дрогобич: Відродження, 2007. – С. 83.

7 Ibid. – С. 84.

8 Енциклопедичний словник символів культури України/за заг. ред. В. П. Коцура, О. І. Потапенка, В. В. Куй біди. – 5-евид. – Корсунь-Шевченківський: ФОП Гавришенко В. М., 2015. – С. 126.

portunities; consciousness and luminescence; the opening through which the connec- tion between a human and outer world was performed; connection with afterworld; hopes and expectations 1.

In the moments of extreme estrangement, when the sorrow and despair seized the consciousness above all, Noel and Ellen would find comfort in dreamy staring out of the window. “Noel leaned on the window and was looking at yet naked trees in the garden. The scraps of thoughts like scraps of tin clouds in the sky were floating in her head. She screwed face into a smile: — And this is February… Carnival days! And “there”! The fragrant mimosa is sweetly blossoming, the streets are full of noise, laughter there…” 2 (“there” — the south of France). “Ellen pulled back the curtain and looked at the street, searching for the lantern on the sledge. Little by little, ev- erything around her stopped to exist. She plunged into her dream with pleasure…” 3. Therefore, the window in “Without roots” and “The wine of solitude” is a symbol of a confrontation of two worlds of the heroines,— real and desired, of their intercon- nection and, at the same time, the inaccessibility of ideal, which indicate the aims of strivings and impossibility of their quick achievement.

At all times, a prayer was a symbol of an important matter of a spiritual life of a per- son. “The Lord’s prayer is the symbol of a sincere conversation of a soul with God, the raising of mind and heart towards the Almighty, humbleness, confession, realization of one’s spiritual weakness” 4. Noel remembered well the words, that mother-tutoress of a French nunnery said to her, when they parted “- At the moment, when you feel loneliness and the burden of life — each of us has these “Gethsemane minutes!” — at the foot of the altar you will find in prayers all of us. Then your burden will be reduced… […]. Noel hid her face in the palms. She prayed a lot, forgetting about the time” 5. Ellen prayed everyday: “And again to end this long day — how slowly they pass, these days of childhood, — a night prayer and a dream” 6. Sometimes her prayer was spontaneous, especially in the moments of despair and rage: “Great Lord, let her

1 Там само. – С. 125.

2 Королева Н. Без коріння; Во дні они; Quid est Veritas?/Королева Н. Науково-ідеологічний центр ім. Дмитра Донцова. – Дрогобич: Відродження, 2007. – С. 119.

3 Немировськи І. Вино самотності: [роман]/Ірен Немировськи ; [з фр. пер. Г. Малець]. – К.: Унів. вид-во Пульсари, 2010. – С. 69.

4 Королева Н. Без коріння; Во дні они; Quid est Veritas?/Королева Н. Науково-ідеологічний центр ім. Дмитра Донцова. – Дрогобич : Відродження, 2007. – С. 512.

5 Там само. – С. 133.

6 Немировськи І. Вино самотності : [роман]/Ірен Немировськи ; [з фр. пер. Г. Малець]. – К.: Унів. вид-во Пульсари, 2010. – С. 32.

go from us as soon as possible and never talk about it! If she could die!” (this is about heartless mother) — Ellen mumbled half-asleep…” 1.

“The heart is a symbol of the center; God; life; intelligence; tenderness; love; compassion; in Christianity it is a symbol of joy and sadness; understanding; courage; religious devotion; purity” 2. In “Without roots”, the heart symbolizes the sadness of the heroine, her melancholy over the past happy life in the French Pyrenees. “The heart tightened with a sweet sadness… From far away in an imagination the sweet smell of orange blossom, with soft almond flavor of oleanders appeared” 3. The similar symbolic meaning of the heart is in “The wine of solitude”. Ellen was sad in Kyiv, often recollected pleasant Paris, where she had lived for several month. “Ellen’s heart begins to melt, when she recollected Paris, Tuileries…” 4

Thus, the works “Without roots” and “The wine of solitude” are united by the au- thors’ usage of symbols for the content of the concept “solitude and estrangement”. Natalena Koroleva and Irene Nemirovsky are famous for original approaches to the creation and interpretation of such symbols, which, except from conventional mean- ings, acquire additional, new, unique individually authorial embodiment.

In the system of the works under study, we explain the nature of symbols, which are the impressions of specific subjective experiences of solitude and estrangement of the heroines. To these symbols in “Without roots” belong: “without roots”, a wall, colors (grey, black), a window, a prayer, a heart. In “The wine of solitude” — “the wine of solitude”, water, a black color, a window, a prayer, a heart. We find out that some of these symbols occur simultaneously in both works, particularly, — a color (black), a window, a prayer, a heart and they have similar conceptual meaning (for example the symbol of a window, the symbol of a heart). In general, all the examined symbols are distinct manifestations of the vividness of subjects, which are the concentration of sense layers of spiritual experience of their authors.

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