

**MYTHOLOGEM OF GENIUS IN A. PUSHKIN'S POETRY:  
VARIANTS OF INTERPRETATION**

The mythologem of Genius appears in Russian culture at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and is interpreted in its original meaning as a personal guardian spirit. Preromanticism actualizes Plato's understanding of a Genius as a kind of peculiar irrational inspiration. The connection between the mythologem of Genius and creativity gradually results in its understanding as a talent, and later is moved to an extraordinary person who succeeds in some field.

Two modifications of the image of Genius are observed in Pushkin's poetry as well as in Romantic artistic consciousness. They are a companion spirit of a poet relating to creativity and creative genius, talent. The first is realized in the image of Genius as an incorporeal winged creature that appears mainly in the evening or at night. Sometimes the poet personifies in the image of Genius the notions that meet his creative tasks and are significant for his artistic consciousness: liberty, recollection. A. Pushkin often combines the mythologem of Genius with a motive of memory. In the spirit of the poetical tradition of the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> – beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century a Genius appears in the image of a death spirit, associated with muses and creativity. The settled tradition to represent a beloved woman or girlfriend as a Genius also is reflected in A. Pushkin's poetry.

The mythologem gradually starts losing its initial meaning and becomes the synonym to the notion «talent, creative genius»; a Genius is understood as a talented person connected with art. The mythological component of the image of Genius influenced by Romantic aesthetics realizes negative potential of the image combining features of a genius and demon. This image acts as a guardian and companion of a person and at the same time as indefinite divine force that is ambivalent in its nature. Demythologization of the mythologem of Genius is observed in Pushkin's late poetry.