

SUMMARIES

УДК 821.161.1

I.L. Bagration-Muhraneli

THE CAUCASIAN FAMILY VALUES IN THE WORKS OF LERMONTOV

The article considers the system of values and dynamics of family relationship in M.Yu. Lermontov's poetry and prose. Caucasian thematics is an organic space of his creative activity and it is notable for its rare integrity.

In the Caucasus the poet finds his ideal fatherland and takes it for a paradise lost in childhood. Lermontov populates the imaginary motherland in contrast to Russia with people of bright passions and integral characters. The hero of the poem «Mtsyri» – a young monk longing to be free – aspires to find harmony in unity with nature and his past. Lermontov achieves complex motivation in the romantic hero's behaviour with the help of a wide range of associations: the Bible, preromantic English literature (J. Milton, W. Blake), romanticism contemporary to him. In the poem Lermontov turns to the theme of nature, its harmony and depicts the notions of the «epoch», «historical colour», «historical character».

The notion of «character» is also considered by the poet in the ethno-cultural aspect. Relationships in a traditional family formed by the Caucasian peoples serve as one of the means of rendering local colour typical of the poetics of romanticism.

The poems «Two Odalisques», «Khadzhi Abrek», «Izmail-Bei», «Mtsyri», the tale «Bela» reflect the «laws of the mountains», which are built on unwritten traditions, on the priority of communal values over personal ones, of military valour over peaceful life, of the men's world over the women's one, and include such archaic notions as observation of blood feud.

Women of the Caucasus in Lermontov's poetry are loyal and devoted. But, alongside with them, the poet is attracted by bright characters, and he depicts a guileful and cruel Tamara as a kind of Caucasian Cleopatra.

In the prose «A Hero of Our Time» Lermontov continues developing the traditional for Russian romanticism motif of a female mountaineer's love for a male Russian. The heroine of the tale «Bela» is endowed, along with typological features of an oriental woman, with pride, dignity and as well fascinating features of loyalty, integrity and ability to love.

The article considers issues of poetics of Lermontov's creative activity, correlation of the motif and thematic and the genre nature.