

SUMMARIES

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«THE STORY OF AN UNKNOWN MAN» BY A.P. CHEKHOV AND THE PETERSBURG TEXT OF RUSSIAN LITERATURE: THE PROBLEM OF INTERTEXTUALITY

The problem of A.P. Chekhov's tradition inheriting, of his «literary ties» was studied by G.A. Belyi, M.L. Semanova, L. Plotkina, B.I. Bursova, S.Ye. Shatalova, M.P. Gromova, V.B. Katayev. They were concerned with discovering the tradition, the «influence», parodies, polemics, reminiscences, typological ties applying the existing methods of comparative analysis.

The article considers the problem of intertextual ties between Chekhov's tale «The Story of an Unknown Man» and the Petersburg text of Russian literature. «The Story of an Unknown Man» shows various literary associations, inconspicuous, tracing back to Pushkin, Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy. They create the atmosphere of Petersburg space in its general geographic form known to the reader owing to their knowledge of the city and its literary reputation.

Literary Petersburg is related in Chekhov's consciousness to the real city he used to visit. That results in ambiguity of «illusion of the truth» in such juxtaposition on the real observations and unconscious literary associations. The literary space in Chekhov's «Petersburg tale» inserted as separate «points» in the general narrative stream is aimed at recognition, it is rather a «sign» than an image, but its «sign status» is related to the semiotics of the Petersburg text of Russian literature. Chekhov did not directly continue Gogol-Dostoyevsky's tradition in depicting «inhumane» Petersburg (V. Toporov) through urbanistic landscape, but he also shows their theme of dramatic alienation of people of the cruel, cold «northern» capital through the landscape realia and description of life in the space of Orlov-junior's house, but in his peculiar manner. Chekhov's motif of a «big city» is rather a way, a principle of artistic vision, a city «not in the landscape, but in the structure of the hero and the world» (I. Sukhikh).