

ABSTRACTS

УДК 82.251

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ELEMENTS OF VERTEP DRAMA AND MYSTERY PLAY IN «PEACH COLOURED CLOUD» BY VASILĬ EROSHENKO

A purely symbolistic plot characterizes Vasiliy Eroshenko's play «The Peach-Colored Cloud». It is stressed that there are two worlds – that of people and the lower world of nature. All the characters are represented by the reflections in one and the other worlds.

The space of the play is divided into several differently colored pieces – and that correspond to the composition of both vertep box and Orthodox temple. The Palaces of Autumn, Summer and Spring are hang (as well as the Royal doors of the temple and the altar inputs are also covered) by purple, green and red curtains, which may be opened «in the name of Love». Symbolically they correspond to the Christian holidays – the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Pentecost and Pentecost Monday, as well as Resurrection of Jesus.

Martyrdom of Mole; treacherous kiss, which sends him to death; his strive for Sun – all this makes us read the play within the framework of Christian symbolism. And here this symbolism is rather vertep one than the church one.

Japanese readers understand Yeroshenko's play with great difficulty. This shows that the play, although written in Japanese, was created in line with the Russian cultural tradition of the early 20th century. The play bears the imprint of both the impact of folk drama (primarily vertep and mystery) and symbolist quests of the author.