

**FROM NATURE BELIEFS TO THE POLITICIZED ECOCRITICISM:
A BRIEF GLANCE ON UKRAINIAN ECO-IMPERATIVES FORMATION**

The premises as well as the early background of ecological criticism in Ukrainian literary studies are under study in the thesis in the aspect of researching “the eco-ethnic complex”, including the physical environment and its ethnic traditions. The special attention is paid to the impact of “ethnic-nature” relations on the specific ethnic character, regarded as a set of social and psychological features that are determined by social, economic, historical as well as geographical factors concerning how society functions and can appear in culture, traditions, and customs. The background of ecocriticism studies within Ukrainian context is studied here as the crossroads of ecological aesthetics and literary studies, based on religious and social perspectives under Ukraine’s social transformations and negative effects of industrialization. The initial steps of ecocritical studies are reconsidered within the formation of Ukrainian ecological consciousness, offering both the background for ecocritical studies and a major source of ethnic self-understanding. It tries to highlight the ironic combination of traditional environmental appreciation and contemporary industrial degradation that have occurred in Ukraine. The paper not only introduces us to a rich body of Ukrainian literature, but also tries to focus on the “ambiguity” that occurs between a renewed ecological consciousness and a continuing ecological degradation. Ukrainian society is currently striving to combine democratization with the persistent memory of post-Soviet approaches to solving social problems.