

**FROM FAUSTIAN MYTH TO FAUSTIAN INTERTEXT: ROBERTO GAC'S «THE CASTLE OF MEPHISTO»
AS A PRECEDENT DRAMA**

The article investigates into the postmodern dehierarchization of the works covering the Faustian theme. The peculiarities of converting the texts of world Faustiana into a precedent megatext based on Roberto Gac's drama "The Castle of Mephisto" have been analyzed.

Embodiment of the Faustian theme in the European literature of the 20th century is well studied both by foreign and domestic scholars. It has been noted that the loss of Faust's exclusivity, so called "exemplarity", is fundamentally important for Faust in the world literature of the second half of the 20th century. This loss is thought to be connected not only with the main character of the Faustian myth but also with the creator of the precedent text – Goethe.

In fact, the postmodern dehierarchization has affected the works covering a Faustian theme so that these works have been converted into precedent megatexts.

A precedent drama "The Castle of Mephisto" written by Gac contains an intertextual game of quotations and ironic attitude towards the requirements to evaluating artistic merits of the works which are combined with the need for such kind of assessment, the importance of aesthetic hierarchy. This enables making a closer look at the problem of interaction between postmodernism theory and practice, considering the extent to which the postmodern writers use the same poetological principles and, finally, analysing the forms and functions of such a seemingly studied postmodern notion as the intertext.