

“PETERSBURG TEXT” BY VICTOR PELEVIN (STORY “THE CRYSTAL WORLD”)

Olga V. Bogdanova, Saint Petersburg State University; Russian State Pedagogical University (Russian Federation).

Ludmyla V. Yevgrafova, Russian State Pedagogical University (Russian Federation).

E-mail: olgabogdanova03@mail.ru

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The article considers the concept of “Petersburg text” in connection with the work of the Moscow prose writer Victor Pelevin and reveals the features of the “third-party” view of traditional literary mythology. For the analysis the synthesis of fundamental methods and principles of scientific research is used, among which are primarily historical-typological, poetological, structural, intertextual, in their interrelation and complementarity. The study achieved a new reading of the text of the modern writer. During the analysis discovered a new literary tradition that emerges in contemporary Russian prose, demonstrated the images-markers showing an extraordinary perception of events of national history, city-sign and personalities from historical past. As shown in the work, the mystical spirit of St. Petersburg-Petrograd is considered by the modern prose writer as an admission of evil that spread throughout Russia, starting from October 1917. Intertextual allusions revealed in the text of the story (from A.S. Pushkin to A.A. Blok) allow to understand the context of time, the historical chronotope of the story, and at the same time to bring it to the level of the eternal mystical evil that penetrated into the Russian world through the gate-Petrograd. The image of Pelevin city-text is created by intertextual layers connecting folklore, literature, philosophy, religion. The correlation of these threads gives rise to the image of the opened way to hell, image of the city, not protected by any Archangel ranks, nor human duty, nor intellectual knowledge. As shown in the work, behind this complex of fragility of the “crystal world” is actually Pelevin’s vision of “St.-Petersburg text”, created on a large scale in Russian literature since the nineteenth century (A.S. Pushkin, N.V. Gogol, F.M. Dostoevsky, etc.), revealed the mystical and tragic perspective of the “Petersburg text”, emerging at the present stage of perception of history and figuratively-artistically evaluated by the Moscow prose writer.

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