

THE FUNCTIONS OF ETHNOCULTURAL STEREOTYPES IN A LITERARY TEXT (BASED ON THE NOVEL "TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD" BY HARPER LEE)

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Key words: ethnocultural stereotype, functions of ethnocultural stereotypes, intra-communicative progression of a literary text, «us – them» binary opposition, evaluation.

This article deals with the functions and features of verbalization of ethnocultural stereotypes in a literary text. The novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee proves that a literary text, encoded with powerful expressive potential, can emphatically present different edges of intercultural interaction, panoramically and emotionally reveal the peculiarities of ethnic communicative contacts, "activate" the reception of "us" and "them" in the mind of the reader.

The novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee has been analyzed for a good reason. It presents fully the collision of two diametrically opposite mental worlds, to which the main characters belong.

The article finds out that ethnocultural stereotypes perform the following functions in a literary text: qualitatively evaluative, emotionally representative, the function of intra-communicative progression of a literary text.

It has been established that the ethnocultural stereotype functions on the principle of binary opposition. Pursuant thereto, ethnocultural stereotypes are closely related to the positive and negative evaluation of characters in a literary text.

The ethnocultural stereotype not only contributes to the positive or negative characterization in a literary text but also provides an emotionally representative reflection of everything that embodies another or foreign culture. Stated another way, the ethnocultural stereotype "acts" to reproduce the emotional state of characters in a literary text. It is the initial point for different emotions actualization – from the positive ones (mainly for the representatives of their ethnic group) to the negative ones (mainly for "them" or "strangers").

Ethnocultural stereotypes have also been proven to be closely linked to the function of intra-communicative progression of a literary text. It indicates that the development of characters' dialogues and monologues is based on an ethnocultural communicative component.

An ethnocultural stereotype can be one of the important tools to assure the coherence, connectivity and integrity of a literary text. In the present case, actualizing in the strong positions of the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" (key dialogues, the final culminating speech of a lawyer, open representation of the "mockingbird" symbol), the ethnocultural stereotype "operates" to ensure the unity of textual segments, marked by the same themes.

In this sense, the image of a mockingbird – a bird that is forbidden to kill – is crucial to ensuring the content and ideological integrity of the novel. It is a great sin to kill a mockingbird who does no harm to people but only sings to them and makes them happy. The implicit motive is the idea that people sometimes make unconscious irrational decisions, guided not by common sense, but by their prejudices, fear of not being ordinary.

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