Characteristic of the Image System in the Novel of N.S. Leskov "On the Knives"

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ABSTRACT

The article is devoted to the characteristics of the system of images in the novel "At the Knives" by NS Leskov. The novel "On Knives" in the creative system of NS Leskov "- examines the existence and development of the poetics of the novel" On Knives." ideological content.

KEYWORDS: Roman, Leskov, artistic system, creativity, Russian literature

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Nikolai Semenovich Leskov has long been considered a "second-tier demiurge", although "Leskov's genius is beyond doubt even for a cautious and evasive mind." Therefore, it is natural that interest in the writer's work is growing every year.

In the last decade, the most important subjects of study are Leskov's worldview position, mythological, folklore, ancient Russian and Christian traditions, characterology, genre, artistic and stylistic originality, intertextual connections. At the same time, researchers most often turn to the mature period of the writer's work, while not enough attention is paid to his early works.

Meanwhile, it is obvious that the study of the early period makes it possible to more fully and adequately comprehend Leskov's artistic system as a whole, to understand the pattern of his creative evolution

In this regard, the motivational analysis of the writer's works is fruitful, which makes it possible to solve the problem of studying the integrity of an individual work, a certain period, or all of his work.

Identification and interpretation of complex textual and intertextual connections, interpretation of the content and characterization of the poetics of Leskov's works can be more adequate due to the study of the motive complex that has developed in them.

Certain motives of Leskov's work in modern literary criticism have been studied quite thoroughly.

However, in the sphere of motivational analysis, few Leskov's works of the story "The Life of a Woman", "Musk Ox", the novels "Nowhere", "At the Knives", the chronicle "Soboryane", the cycle of stories "The Righteous", Christmas tales and some other works of Leskov began in 1860 -s did not become the subject of special study, therefore it is advisable to introduce them into scientific circulation and determine

The creativity of N.S. Leskov, due to his special position in Russian literature, was on the periphery of literary criticism for almost a century. Separate monographs dedicated to this writer, who is only now finding his place among Russian classics, appear only in the forties of the last century, and a wide interest in the study of his artistic heritage dates back to the sixties and seventies. It can be argued that to this day, Leskov's work remains insufficiently studied,

although the number of studies devoted to the writer's work is steadily growing.

A special, dramatic role in the creative fate of Leskov, both during his life and after it, was played by his so-called "anti-nihilistic" novels, and among them - "At the Knives." This layer of the writer's artistic heritage began to be actively developed only in the last decade and a half. The subject of our research is the novel At the Knives, which we tend to consider as a phenomenon extremely important for the creative development of the writer, which made a significant contribution to Russian classical literature.

Until recently, this novel by Leskov was listed among the most extreme manifestations of "anti-nihilistic" fiction. With the ever-growing dissatisfaction of researchers with this very concept, "At Daggers", however, is viewed exclusively as a product of sociopolitical polemics of the sixties, which, in our opinion, hinders both its objective study and understanding of the genre nature of a whole range of works of Russian literature.

In our opinion, this problem can be solved only by making adjustments to the modern methodology for studying typological systems, sometimes also defined by the concept of "literary school". It seems to us impossible to construct an objective classification of historical and literary phenomena without a thorough study of the literary process, in other words, without solving the question of the genesis of a particular work of art. This is the only way to avoid violation of the elementary laws of cognition, which make it a necessary condition for understanding the essence of an object to understand "what it was" before it became what it is.

Thus, the presented article has two levels of tasks - the first involves the study of the novel "On Knives" as a separate work in the totality of this literary phenomenon, that is, we consider what this novel was outside the boundaries of Leskov's work, what it is objectively within its boundaries and how his poetics is then refracted in the subsequent work of the writer.

It should be noted that the genre nature of Leskov's work provides new criteria for the periodization of his work, determines the role and place of the novel "At Daggers" in the writer's system of creativity, substantiates the overdue rejection of the term "antinihilistic" novel, reveals some mechanisms of mastering the literary tradition, introduces turnover is such an interesting phenomenon of Russian literature of the nineteenth century as the work of S.A. Burachka.

History of the issue the belonging of the novel "At the Knives" to anti-nihilistic fiction, and to its most

extreme manifestations, became firmly established for the novel almost simultaneously with its publication. At the same time, he was always considered exclusively in the context of the rest of the works that fell into the category of "protective", and the work of Leskov itself remained, in fact, completely unread by critics and literary historians, which, in our opinion, gave rise to a completely false idea of this most interesting creation great writer.

The novel "On Knives" was considered, in this regard, among extremely heterogeneous material closely related to the concept of "literary school", and in attempts to classify such material, methodological weaknesses were manifested very clearly - literary criticism faced fundamental difficulties, overcoming which, in our opinion, and is now on the agenda.

Therefore, it seems to us correct and timely to systematize scientific ideas associated with the so-called anti-nihilistic fiction, to the maximum extent possible, both in order to determine the place of Leskov's novel in his contemporary literary context, and in order to analyze the scientific reliability of the concept itself, without which the topic of our research would not receive the all-round coverage to which we are striving.

The special place of the novel "On Knives" in Leskov's creative system seems obvious to us, and we are ready to suggest that a work similar to this exists in the artistic world of any writer - these are the phenomena that make it possible to objectively periodize creativity. "On Knives" marks the border of the early Leskov, and we can distinguish the characteristic features of such a borderline phenomenon - first of all, a special concentration of "growth zones". This assumption, of course, requires verification and clarification on a broader historical and literary material.

It is difficult to overestimate the significance of the novel At Daggers in the formation of Leskov's creative universe. We would define this novel as a kind of DNA of the writer's creativity, which unfolded its spiral throughout his literary development. "On Knives" occupies a special and extremely important place in Leskov's creative universe; the novel in a concentrated form contains those creative motives, which are destined in the future, in unambiguously recognized.

Roman N.S. Leskov's "On Knives", as we tried to prove, are extremely closely related genetically, and the nature of this connection allows us to say that there are objective laws of development of the literary process, and determining their nature is a matter of time and volume of the analyzed material.

The knowledge of these patterns opens up prospects for a new solution to such issues as the periodization of the literary process, the tradition and the nature of its inheritance, the development of the genre in various conditions of national literatures.

We believe that a promising direction of scientific research is the knowledge of the patterns of the formation of large creative systems, their interaction with the "literary soil", the nature of the creative mastery of the victories of the "captains" and "privates" of the literary army, as well as the internal logic of the development of the creative universe of a particular writer. We made observations of this process in this work based on the material of the works of N. S. Leskov.

Thus, it seems to us that the proposed methods for solving topical scientific problems deepen the understanding of modern literary criticism about the evolution of the genre of menippean satire in Russian

literature of the nineteenth century and allow, in the future, to develop more objective criteria for its periodization.

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