PHILOLOGY

DOI: https://doi.org/10.64076/ap261109.11

Alla Kolesnyk
University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland
ORCID iD: 0000-0001-7812-0035

NATURALISM STYLE IN YEVGENIYA YAROSHINSKA'S STORY "THE ADDRESSEE HAS DIED"

Abstract. The style naturalism in the story of Yevgeniya Yaroshinska "The Addressee Has Died" has been looking over. The period in the writer's life during the late 19th century and the significance of this style within her works are analyzed.
Keywords: naturalism style, Ukrainian literature, Yaroshinska's works.

Колесник Алла Валеріївна
Університет Базеля, Базель, Швейцарія
ORCID iD: 0000-0001-7812-0035

НАТУРАЛІЗМ В ОПОВІДАННІ ЄВГЕНІЇ ЯРОШИНСЬКОЇ "АДРЕСАТКА ПОМЕРЛА"

Анотація. У статті розглядається натуралістичний стиль в оповіданні Євгенії Ярошинської "Адресат помер". Аналізується період життя письменниці в кінці XIX століття та значення цього стилю в її творчості.
Ключові слова: натуралізм, українська література, творчість Ярошинської.

Naturalism in literature was a crucial stage in our development, forcing human to change their views on all the most important aspects of life. Thanks to its photographic and documentary quality of imaging, naturalism proved to be a truthful medium that shifted society's focus from the luxurious lives of the wealthy people to the daily torment of ordinary workers, whose live depended on often dangerous working conditions and the lack of money they earned. The quantity of money were too low, even when the work was completed in time and with a high standard. It wasn't even enough money for food.

Naturalism permeated the works of writers across Europe. However, it was less developed in Ukrainian literature due to the constant censorship forbiddance on radical artistic expression that existed during the Russian Empire and later in the Soviet Union. Therefore, it is now important for us to conduct a more detailed comparative analysis of the development of naturalism in Ukraine and European countries.

Ukrainian scholars of the early 2000s remained convinced that only Ivan Franko was a writer who worked in the naturalistic style. At the same time, the study of short prose works, carried out by the author of this article [Kolesnyk 2024], showed the presence of naturalism and the naturalistic method in the works of a number of other Ukrainian writers of that time. Among them there were writers who used naturalism to document the most horrific events in Ukrainian life. Let us remember Kost' Srokovsky and his short story "Two Bricks," [Srokovskiy 1989] which depicts the murder of a man by his "shwager" (brother-in-law), for the bricks stolen by him from a neighbor's yard. The incident is presented neutrally, as if it happened with complete strangers. In this story, the author plays the role of just an observer or disinterested witness.

One of the feminist Ukrainian writers was Yevgeniya Yaroshinska. She started her writers work at 1886 year but in Deutsch language which was the main in Bukovina. She has known Ivan Franko and other prominent writers of her time, such as Olga Kobulanska, Natala Kobrunska and Osup Makoviy. She organized women's meetings in city Struy, then tried to create first schools for girls that will make them an opportunity to study in university. She also taught children to read and write by herself [Mororash, 2021]

In the works of Yaroshinska we can find a story that is rather difficult for reception by reader with normal mind health – "The Addressee Has Died" [Yaroshinska, 1960]. It depicts the inevitable, tragic fate of an ordinary individual by showing the reader the hard situation of old woman's life after the death of her daughter. Such tragic narratives were characteristic of naturalism—a movement that documented these kinds of situations in order to draw the reader's attention to the hopeless plight of a suffering individual.

Even the title of this story prompts somber reflections on the narrative. Indeed, the plot centers on the death of an elderly woman's only daughter. Neither mother nor daughter have names, a detail that lends the narrative a touch of anonymity to the story that was characteristic of naturalism.

We first encounter the old woman as she waits the letter from her daughter, to whom she had sent a greeting card the day before. But no reply comes. The old woman asks the postman to look for this letter once more. After a thorough search, the postman finally finds it: the letter has been returned, undelivered, bearing a grim, stark notation on its surface – "The addressee has died."

These words strike the old woman hard. After all, her daughter was the only person who truly needed her. The daughter looked after her mother, sending her money every month for living expenses – though, in truth, it was only enough to cover the bare essentials. In this context, we might recall the family of the protagonist in Emile Zola's novel "Jerminal", who also had money just enough to afford food [Zolya, 1957].

The old woman asks a passerby to read aloud, once more, exactly what is written in the letter. She then asks the postman again whether this is the same letter she had sent to her daughter. The news it contains is so dreadful that the old woman begins to

doubt the letter's authenticity. Yet, after verifying all the circumstances and becoming convinced that the letter is true, she is forced to accept the fate.

Ultimately, the story ends with the old woman's death, who realized a grievous loss of a child, and perhaps also by the intense suffering triggered by the letter.

Thus, this short story reveals the awful events in the life of an ordinary woman who had managed to survive only through the help of her daughter. Life without her daughter proved to be an overwhelmingly difficult, insurmountable challenge.

REFERENCES

1. Kolesnyk A. (2024) *Naturalizm i naturalistychna tendentsiya u maliy prozi ukrayins'kykh pys'mennykiv yak zasib vysvitlennya lyuds'kykh vyprobuvan'* [Naturalism and Naturalistic Method in Short Prose Works of Ukrainian writers as Means of Depicting Human Processes]. Poland: IKRiBL. (in Ukrainian).

2. Mororash H. (2021) *Yevheniya Yaroshyns'ka: neotsinenno pryzabuta persha ukrayins'ka pys'mennytsya na Bukovyni. [Yevheniya Yaroshynska: the first Ukrainian female writer in Bukovina has been undeservedly forgotten.]* Vcheni zapysky TNU imeni V.I. Vernads'koho. Seriya: Filolohiya. Zhurnalistyka. Kyiv. Vol. 32 (71) № 2, Ч.2, P. 104-108. (in Ukrainian).

3. Srokovs'kyy K. (1989) *Dvi tsehly. [Two Bricks].* Ukrayins'ka novelistyka kintsya *XIX* – pochatku *XIX* stolittya: Opovidannya. Novely. Frahmentarni formy (eskizy, etyudy, narysy, obrazky, poeziyi v prozi). Kyiv. P. 492-494.

4. Yaroshyns'ka Ye. (1960) *Adresatka pomerla. [The addressee has died.]* Antolohiya ukrayins'koho opovidannya v 4-kh tomakh. Vol. 2. Kyiv, P. 63-65.

5. Zolya Э. (1957) *Zhermynal*. Sobranye sochynenyy v 18 tomakh. [Germinal. Collected Works in 18 Volumes].V.10. M. [in Russian].