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**THE INFLUENCE OF CHERKASY WRITERS' LIVES  
AND CREATIVE WORK ON NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AWARENESS  
AMONG CHERKASY REGION POPULATION IN 1990–2001**

*The article is devoted to the problem of national independence awareness by Ukrainians in the first decade of the state independence of Ukraine. The formation of national revival of the Ukrainian people on lives and creative work of writers, poets, dramatists and journalists of Cherkasy region as an example is shown. The aim of the article is to show that the creativity of writers has a direct influence on national identity strengthening, national revival formation and national independence awareness by Ukrainians. The author of the scientific work puts the task to show how lives and creative work of Cherkasy writers and journalists have promoted national independence awareness first of all among the residents of Cherkasy region in 1990–2001. On the basis of the appliance of the general scientific methods (analysis, synthesis, description, explanation) the aim has been achieved and planned tasks have been realized.*

**Keywords:** *writer, journalist, revival, independence.*

In 1991–2001 there was a significant process of renewal in Ukraine characterized by a departure from censorship standards, the emergence of new tendencies and styles, a splashing of Ukrainian interest. The same processes took place in Cherkasy region. New topics appeared in the literature and the approach to creative activities changed. Much work was done to ensure systematic and consistent scientific research, promotion and publication of scientific heritage.

In the first decade of independence of Ukraine the problem of perceiving national independence in the light of lives and creative work of Cherkasy writers didn't become the subject of study to historians. But a number of writers (V. Polishchuk, V. Kovalenko, H. Bilous) compiled collections of short stories, anthologies and etc., where were not only artistic works but brief biographical information about Cherkasy authors. Also such writers and journalists as S. Nosan and S. Krymovska published some articles about different literary events of the region in local periodicals. But this is not enough to solve the problem. Therefore, it is relevant and necessary to research life and creative work of Cherkasy authors in the first decade of Ukraine's independence and its influence on Ukrainians' awareness of independence, the consolidation of national identity and the formation of region's national revival.

The leading writer's organization in the region was Cherkasy region organization NSPU (the National Writers' Union of Ukraine) which was headed by S. Nosan in

1991, in 1992–1999 by L. Taranenko and in 1999–2010 – H. Bilous. Its members were more than 30 professional writers (in 1995 there were 18) [1].

During its existence there were published collected volumes of mainly young authors. They are «Cherkasy poets – 90», «Toloka», «Sails of our dreams». Also regional collections «Primrose: the poets of Mankivka Raion», «Dawn above Tiasmyn» (Chyhyryn city), «Dawn of Taras» (Kaniv city) and collective vanguard volumes «God, we are free» and «Age of mist» etc.

In addition, a great contribution to the development of region's literary process was made by regional and district periodicals. In 1990s «Dnipro's stars», «Dnipro», «Tiasmyn» and «Kobza» became traditional and popular. During that period a lot of professional authors and beginners published their own poems and short stories there.

In 1992 owing to L. Taranenko the literary and artistic festival «Poetic October» was resumed (since 2000 «Poetic autumn»). Originally, it was introduced in 1977. Also he created links with diaspora, initiated an annual memorial evening of V. Symonenko, literary competition for creative youth «Love your Ukraine» etc. In 1993 with her initiative and contribution of Australian society of Ukrainian language named after T. Shevchenko the first number of almanac «Kholodnyi Yar» was published by regional branch SPU (Socialist Party of Ukraine). At first it was irregular but since the end of twentieth century appeared constantly [2].

In 1991–2001 there were Cherkasy authors who wrote only in Russian (V. Yeremenko, P. Matyukhin, O. Slepynin etc.) or both in Russian and Ukrainian (O. Buyevych, S. Horban etc.). Among Russian-speaking ones the members of National Writers' Union of Ukraine were I. Haibullin, M. Veytsman, M. Frolova. In the meantime O. Buyevych, V. Yermolenko and O. Slepynin belonged to SPR, P. Matyuchin, T. Sholohova – National Union of journalists of Ukraine. The rest were not members of any union.

Among authors of region the most famous writer was M. Frolova, a member of National Writers' Union of Ukraine and a prizewinner «Literary Award named after V. Korolenko». Since 1975 she had been working as a leader of children's literary circle «Pegasyk» more than 35 years. There the youth could learn how to write and recite poems. Some people from this circle became professional writers (N. Horishna, O. Ozirnyi, V. Paharenko etc.) or journalists (H. Kompaniets, L. Dzhulai).

There was a brain drain of literary intelligentsia. L. Hmelkovskyi and M. Veitsman emigrated to Israel and the USA where continued their literary activity.

Regional literary union named after V. Symonenko which was established on the basis of district organization SPU together with the editors of the newspaper «Cherkaskyi krai» in 1991 [3] facilitated detection of young talents, bringing gifted youth together and rising their literary erudition. Their pupils were O. Solomitskyi, O. Solodar (who was its leader during 1999–2008) etc. Now they are famous writers.

In addition, during 1991–2001 there was a range of other literary unions in the region. Their main aim was developing literary talents of youth. For example, such

literary and art union named «Tiasmyn» functioned in Smila. Its members were O. Bakumenko, I. Shpychka, V. Pyatun-Dibrova (leader) etc. V. Hutsalenko, V. Derhach (leader) and others were members of such union as «Zvenyhora» behind editorship of newspaper «Shevchenkiv krai». At the Uman State Pedagogical Institute (now Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University) were created literary union named after M. Bazhan in 1996 that M. Pavlenko headed [4]. Also there was one of the oldest union «LitO» created in 1811 in Uman. Now all unions of the town are parts of it [2].

The development of children and youth's talents was provided by a number of literary circles, clubs and schools held generally by libraries of regional centers. The most famous among them was «Pegasyk» by Cherkasy Regional Library for Children named after O. Koshovyi (leaded by M. F. Frolova) [2]. During 1991–2001 there worked literary schools and clubs such as «Debyut» by Cherkasy Regional Library for Youth named after V. Symonenko and literary school named after O. Vlyzka by Shpola Regional Library etc.

In March 1997 Association of Ukrainian Writers (AUW) was created as an opposition to SPU. Its members were Cherkasy authors O. Buyevych, Y. Naiden etc. Professionalism, overcoming colonial syndrome of literature, openness to heritage of the global outlook and style of the 20th century were the criteria of this association. In 2001 AUW acquired the status of All-Ukrainian Art Association [2]. In addition, there was also the Club of Independent Ukrainian Writers «Orataniya» members of which were V. Pyatun-Dibrova (from 1993) and O. Solomitskyi.

Also there were professional authors who were not members of any literary organization. For example, O. Apalkov and O. Bakumenko etc. Some of them joined to the National Writers' Union of Ukraine later, others were journalist that combined work in local newspapers with literary activity. The journalist that achieved considerable success in literature are O. Buyevych, V. Yeremenko, O. Horbivnenko and etc. It is worth noting that most of regional authors were engaged in journalism at some periods of live.

One of the most significant figure of journalist and literary life of region was H. Bilous [2]. The subjects of his articles and essays were history of Ukraine and Cherkasy, culture and art. Moreover, he had been working as correspondent of regional television for 15 years. During that period, he created a number of feature and publicistic films about figures of national culture, for example, film about national artist D. Narbut after showing which the prohibition of his works was dropped. As an author he also succeeded. In 1996 he became a prizewinner of International Literary Award named after H. Skovoroda for his own poem «The fire on the stone» and in 2000 H. Bilous won the first place at regional literary and publicistic award «The shore of Faith» named after V. Symonenko [2].

In general, during 1991–2001 regional authors were engaged in different types of activity. Cherkasy poets wrote also songs. In 1990 the book of Cherkasy composers

«We are from Shevchenko's land» was published on the words of V. Danyk. More than 300 songs were written by Ukrainian composers on his poems. The songs were performed by People's Artists of Ukraine V. Savvopulo and V. Chornodub, vocal trio «Barvy» [5]. A number of songs were written on M. Nehoda's poems [6; 7], the most popular of which is «Stepom, Stepom...» (music by A. Pashkevych, performance by O. Pavlovska) [8] that became peculiar requiem in former Soviet Union. Nehoda was awarded memorable sign «Merit of Cherkasy» [2].

There also were some prosemen that wrote both in Ukrainian and Russian in the region (S. Horban in co-authorship with his sister N. Lapina). O. Apalkov wrote even in three languages: Ukrainian, Russian and German).

One of the hardest kinds of literary activities is literary translation because the translator should know not only a foreign language fluently, but transmit the author's thoughts and feeling with the help of mother-tongue's literary devices. H. Bilous (translated from Polish, German, Moldavian etc.), V. Hutsalenko (from Polish, Byelorussian, Russian, Czech, Bulgarian, Slovakian languages), V. Kykot (from English), S. Nosan (from French), I. Yavorskyi (from Russian and Polish) [2] etc.

Moreover, their own works were translated into other languages that was very important to popularization of Ukrainian authors abroad and rise of authority of such young country as Ukraine in general. Poems of N. Virhush were translated into Russian, Polish and English, V. Derhach's works – into Polish, French and Russian; V. Kykot's poems – into Azerbaijani, Macedonian and Polish; works of S. Nosan – into Russian, French, German, Bulgarian and Kazakh and [2] etc.

Also there were authors subjected to political repressions and persecution in the region. They are O. Bakumenko, V. Zaharchenko, V. Kapusta and V. Dihtyar. Independence of Ukraine allowed to be published without any fear of being arrested for freethinking, but they didn't implement their plans because of age and undermined health. O. Bakumenko died in 1998, V. Kapusta – in 1999, V. Dihtyar – 2002 [2].

Cherkasy authors narrated about love to motherland, Ukrainian traditions and customs, tried to return the truth about historical facts that took place on the territory of Ukraine, in particular in Cherkasy region, and about Ukrainian patriots with the help of word. For instance, V. Derhach published essay «Vatutine». I. Drobnyi had a lot of publicistic essays about history of Cherkasy region [9]. O. Solodar devoted himself to historical study of a region, in particular was interested in history of Chyhyryn during 16–17<sup>th</sup> centuries, and published a number of articles about it [10]. Poetess O. Didenko, whose themes were uncovering the historical past of Ukraine and eulogy of Sofiyivsky Park's beauty [11], was museum and public activist, archeologist, ethnographer, specialist in folklore, regional ethnographer and got V. Stefanyk Awards and V. Hvoika Awards for the protection of monuments of archaeology in 1997.

Cherkasy writers were also repeated prizewinners of both international and All-Ukrainian and regional literary awards, contests of state and regional level.

In conclusion, literary activity of Cherkasy authors had immediate influence on strengthening of national identity, formation national revival and awareness of national independence.

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**О. О. Спіркіна**

**Вплив життя та творчості черкаських письменників на усвідомлення національної незалежності серед населення Черкаської області у 1990–2001 рр.**

У 1991–2001 рр. в Україні, і в Черкаській області зокрема, відбувався значний процес оновлення, який характеризувався відступом від стандартів цензури, появою нових тенденцій і стилів, сплеском інтересів України. У літературі з'явилися нові теми, змінився підхід до творчої діяльності. Велика робота була зроблена для забезпечення систематичного та послідовного наукового дослідження, популяризації та публікації наукової спадщини.

Стаття присвячена проблемі усвідомлення українцями національної незалежності у перше десятиріччя незалежності України. На прикладі життя та творчості письменників, поетів та журналістів Черкаської області показано формування національного відродження українського народу. Зазначається, що творчість літераторів має безпосередній вплив на утвердження національної ідентичності, формування національного відродження та усвідомлення українцями національної незалежності. Висвітлено, як життя та творчість черкаських письменників та журналістів сприяли усвідомленню національної незалежності насамперед мешканцями Черкаського регіону у 1990–2001 р. На основі застосування загальнонаукових методів (аналіз, синтез, опис, пояснення) була досягнута мета та реалізовані заплановані завдання.

**Ключові слова:** письменник, журналіст, відродження, незалежність.

**О. А. Спиркина**

**Влияние жизни и творчества черкаских писателей на осознание национальной независимости среди населения Черкаской области в 1990–2001 гг.**

Статья посвящена проблеме осознания украинцами национальной независимости в первое десятилетие независимости Украины. На примере жизни и творчества писателей, поэтов и журналистов Черкаской области показано формирование национального возрождения украинского народа. Определено, что творчество литераторов имеет непосредственное влияние на утверждение национальной идентичности, формирование национального возрождения и осознания украинцами национальной независимости. Показано, как жизнь и творчество черкаских писателей и журналистов способствовали осознанию национальной независимости, прежде всего жителями Черкаского региона в 1990–2001 гг. На основе применения общенаучных методов (анализ, синтез, описание, объяснение) была достигнута цель и реализованы запланированные задания.

**Ключевые слова:** писатель, журналист, возрождение, независимость.