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The problem of war and peace in European literature of the 20th century

Проблема війни і миру у європейській літературі ХХ століття

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Abstract

Aim. The aim of the article is to identify and arrange the patterns of influence of the consequences of the wars of the 20th century on literature as one of the characteristic manifestations of the socio-cultural activity of the community involved in destructive military actions, and the influence of these literary works on modernity. Methods. The research employed the following methods: collection and analysis of works of war literature, cross-sectional expert rating analysis, content analysis and drawing analytical conclusions. Results. The study was focused on two lists of literary works about the First and Second World Wars. According to the rankings, Erich Maria Remarque - Der Weg zurück (about the First World War) and Anne Frank - Het Achterhuis (about the Second World War) are the leaders. Stylistic dynamics showed a change from generalized moral reflections to personal experiences of military horrors. The results confirmed the impact of military conflicts on literature and its interaction with other socio-

Анотація

Мета. Мета статті визначення систематизація патернів впливу наслідків воєн XX сторіччя на літературу, як одного з соціокультурної характерних проявів активності спільноти, втягнутої в деструктивні військові дії та вплив зазначених літературних творів на сучасність. Методи. В статті застосовані наступні методи: збір та аналіз витворів «військової» літератури, перехресний експертно-рейтинговий аналіз, контент-аналіз формування аналітичних висновків. Результати. Досліджено дві номенклатури літературних творів про Першу та Другу світові війни. За рейтингами лідерами визначено Erich Maria Remarque - Der Weg zurück (про Першу світову війну) та Anne Frank - Het Achterhuis (про Другу світову війну). Стильова динаміка показала зміну віл роздумів узагальнених моральних особистих переживань військових жахів. Результати підтвердили вплив військових конфліктів на літературу та її взаємодію з

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cultural phenomena. Conclusions. The authors' appeal in the war literature of World War II to the personal experiences of the potential reader through the mediation of autobiographical literary works contributes to a fundamental revision of the moral and ethical norms of the post-war society. The academic novelty is a comprehensive analysis of the impact of global military conflicts on European literature and their role in the modern world. The results of the study can be used in literary studies, education and cultural studies for a better understanding of the influence of military conflicts on literature and the formation of a humanistic worldview. The prospects for further research direction focus on increasing the sample of empirical data through content analysis of a larger number of master works of war literature.

Kevwords: autobiography, expert reader analysis, content analysis, global conflicts, literary reaction.

Introduction

Relevance

The study of the problem of war and peace in European literature of the 20th century is extremely relevant and has great academic and social significance in terms of the following aspects:

- Historical aspect. The 20th century was the period of the largest armed conflicts in world history —World Wars I and II, as well as the Cold War. The study of the problems of war and peace in the literature of that time helps to better understand the influence that these conflicts had on the worldview of writers and how they influenced the formation of national and world identity (Bullock et al., 2021; Camarotto, 2021; Godin, 2019).
- Humanitarian aspect. The problem of war and peace remains relevant to date, as armed conflicts continue in various regions of the world. Literary works of the 20th century can provide deep insights into the tragedy of war and human suffering, as well as emphasize the importance of peace and coexistence for the modern world (Alexander, 2023; Dall'Igna, 2023).
- Socio-cultural analysis. The study of literature can help to better understand the cultural, social, and political challenges of the time, as well as reveal the role of writers

іншими соціокультурними явишами. Висновки. Апелювання авторів «військової» Другої світової літератури війни особистісних переживань потенційного читача посередництва автобіографічних літературних творів сприяє докорінному перегляду морально-етичних післявоєнного суспільства. Наукова новизна полягає в комплексному аналізі впливу глобальних воєнних конфліктів на європейську літературу та їх роль у сучасному світі. Результати дослідження можуть використані в літературознавстві, освіті та культурології для кращого розуміння впливу конфліктів літературу воєнних на формування гуманістичного світоглялу. Перспективи розвитку визначеного дослідного напрямку фокусуються на збільшенні вибірки емпіричних даних шляхом контент-аналізу більшої кількості еталонних творів «військової» літератури.

Ключові слова: автобіографія, експертночитацький аналіз, контент-аналіз, глобальні конфлікти, літературна реакція.

- in shaping the worldview of their society (Lazarovych, 2023; Hart. 2023: Kalangutkar, 2022).
- 4. Postmodern approach. Literary works of postmodernism open up new opportunities for the analysis of war and peace as complex and multifaceted concepts that are subject to different interpretations. Studying this aspect will help to better understand current literary trends and contribute to the development of literary studies (Brett, 2016; Kiesel, 2023; Lipárová, 2022).
- Global dimension. The problems of war and peace affect the whole world. The relevance of the research is the fact that the literary works of the 20th century can be a source for understanding the universal problems facing humanity, and will contribute to the development of cultural education and tolerance (Strachan, 2017; Kristiawan & Pandhamnurani, 2023; Mašek, 2023).
- Significance for the present. Contemporary writers and readers can find inspiration and insight in twentieth-century literary works dealing with war and peace. This will make it possible to respond to modern challenges, offer alternative ways to peace, and promote the development of a harmonious society (Aldridge, 2019; Ladani & Naghi, 2023).

The study of the problem of war and peace in the



European literature of the 20th century will help to reveal the complexity and importance of this topic for understanding the modern world, the development of literary studies and cultural education, as well as for finding ways to peace and tolerant coexistence in a world where war and conflicts remain important problems.

Unexplored Issues

There is a significant number of studies on the analysis of literary works of wartime periods, but they are eposodic, inconsistent, forming a fragmented and sometimes contradictory idea of the perception of war as a complex sociopsychological phenomenon not only at the level of communities involved in military operations, but also at the level of individuals who experienced all the hardships of the war on their own experience. Considering the modern context, namely a large-scale war in the middle of Europe (which is a consequence of Russia's unprovoked armed aggression against Ukraine), the goal of arranging sociocultural phenomena and ways to overcome psycho-emotional crises, which are embedded in meaningful literary works, is extremely practical.

Aim

The aim of the article is to identify and arrange the patterns of influence of the consequences of the wars of the 20th century on literature as one of the characteristic manifestations of the sociocultural activity of the community involved in destructive military actions and the influence of these literary works on the present.

Objectives/Questions

Research objectives:

- Study the literary works of European writers that covered the military actions of the largest wars of the 20th century.
- Identify the dynamics of literary stylistics and sentiments of literary works of the wartime.
- 3. Determine the general vector of the military theme, which was reflected in the literary works of the wartime.
- 4. Identify influential literary works that cover the consequences of the military operations of World Wars I and II.
- 5. Establish the relevance and practical impact of these works on current socio-cultural activities in the context of the development of a large-scale war in the central part of Europe.

Literature Review

An analytical review of the results of relevant publications on the influence of the largest wars of the 20t century on literature as the main element of the socio-cultural activity of communities involved in destructive military conflicts was conducted to determine the current academic landscape in relation to the chosen vector of research.

Ribeiro and Thomaz (2023) show that historians and literary critics have long differed in their assessment of World War I poetry. The underlying reason is canonization, which limits or even ignores the diversity of poetic practices of the period. The study of a new corpus of French poets of World War II and examining poetry as a social and cultural category shows that war poets can be considered as ethnographers of the culture of that time. This makes us see poets as producers of interpretive knowledge of war, and poetry as more than just documents or closed lyrical works.

The main findings by Shoebottom (2023) concern the problematic nature of the cultural memory of the war. Remembrance of the war depends on national sentiments, which war to grace, which party, actors, events and themes to emphasize. Over time, the way past events are commemorated may change depending on public self-perception. Cultural memory of war is often based on post-war ideas and contexts of interpretation, rather than on the ideas for which the war was unleashed. War Memories: Commemoration, Recollections, and Writings on War edited by Stéphanie A.H. Bélanger and Renée Dickason explores the various approaches to commemorating war through different media: monuments, books, works of art. It illustrates the complexity of war memory and its importance for societies. The book meets expectations demonstrating a multi-genre and transnational approach.

Moreshead (2023) studies the work of Al Filreis and emphasises the importance of the 1960's for art and literature. Scientist argues that the time is notable for the combination of modernism and radicalism as a response to the consequences of World War II. Focusing on the work of Jewish authors such as Paul Celan, Jerome Rothenberg and Hannah Arendt, the researcher shows how they raised questions about the meaning of language and writing in the context of fascist authoritarianism and genocide. Using a combination of writing, art and dialogue, Filreis demonstrates how the period dealt with the



trauma of war and reinterpreted pre-war modernism.

Mishra (2023) focuses on the literary analysis of two European texts: Dulce et Decorum Est by Wilfred Owen and General, Your Tank is a Powerful Machine by Bertolt Brecht. The authors use literary techniques to convey an anti-war message, emphasizing the consequences of war and the destruction it brings. The results of the study show that war and violence are futile solutions to conflicts, and that literature can promote peace and destroy the myth of war glory.

The main findings of Wróblewski (2023) relate to the analysis of a unique collection of school works written by Polish children and youth in 1945-1946. The works contain references to the wartime period and are divided into two collections relating to different regions of Poland. Young authors combine a private narrative style with elements of public expression, smoothly transitioning from personal dramatic details about the war to the style of a school work. The themes of the works were determined by the programme of writing memoirs about the wartime period. The article portrayed the war as a micro-history with many details about local wartime events such as raids, public executions, and Nazi brutality against adults and children.

Blažić (2023) worked on the play Jurček in Trije Razbojniki by Alenka Gerlovič is that this fabulous play created during the Second World War is an important writer's ethical expression regarding fascism, Nazism, and the horrors of war. With this play, Herlovich became one of the world's writers for young people who use their works to comment on the war. Jurček creates an "imaginary screen" that helps the audience to maintain a distance from the horrors of war, while being part of the anti-fascist struggle, acting as a symbolic weapon and an ethical act. The author managed to raise serious ethical questions with the help of a fairy tale and promoted influence the younger generation, perceiving their participation in the war as an active role in opposing Nazism.

Ugli (2022) explores the abstract perception of the theme of war by Western researchers. The main goal of the research is to study the role of war in the development of world literature and to analyse the approaches of Western researchers to the understanding of war in the literature of different periods. The research is based on assessments and perspectives, using scientific sources relevant to the given topic. The main

areas of research include the study of the role of brave heroes in classical literature, where war is considered from a simple perspective, as well as the study of war literature of the 19th-20th centuries in Western literature and the analysis of the works of the "lost generation". In these studies, special attention is paid to the negative impact of war on the human mind and its future.

Campobasso (2022) reviews Andreas Dorrer's Neider überall zwingen uns zu gerechter Verteidigung, which analyses the literary response to the Verteidigungskrieg, focusing on early twentieth-century drama. Scientist reveals how patriotic theatre contributed to the propaganda of war, while reactionary theatre in the 1920's and 30's addressed the reality of the horrors of war. The study helps to better understand the role of children in war and the moral consequences of the conflict.

Dagnino (2022) examines the role of the Federation of Catholic Students of Italy (FUCI) in the formation of future Christian Democrats after the Second World War in the context of literary activity. FUCI created a new type of religiosity that provided ideals of personal development and spiritual growth. The literature of that period was marked by emotionality, heroism and passion, which influenced the formation of strong images and motives. The idea of "palingenesis" of Christianity united the cultural, ethical and political spheres of life, which contributed to the creativity of writers, promoting the ideals of Catholic Christianity. Literary works interacted with FUCI ideas and helped shape cultural and spiritual identity after the war.

The studies (Ferris, 2022; Zühlke, 2023) established literary experiments in British literature after World War II. The author examines the period from 1945 to 1980 and reveals how aesthetic achievements initiated new forms of literary expression. The study is the first to consistently examine the influence of continental and transatlantic influences on the formation of literary networks. Ferris (2022) offers a comprehensive overview of the status of abstraction in cultural, institutional, and literary contexts, and explores the relationship between spatiality and visuality in post-war literature.

Studies on the twentieth-century literature trace the role of war and peace in the formation of the cultural and ethical identity of society. Literary works became not only a means of covering the events of wartime, but also ethnographers of culture, abstract works that deepen the understanding of complex problems of the

modern world. War and peace are viewed from different perspectives, reflecting memory, trauma, and ideals. The twentieth-century literature is of great importance for understanding war and peace, their impact on society and individuality. Poetry, prose and drama became not only a means of aesthetic expression, but also tools for the formation of ethical views, revealing the complexity of memory embodied in works of art. Studying the role of literary works in the context of war and peace contributes to a deeper understanding of

social and cultural processes and realities of that time. It is appropriate to continue research in this area, because it reveals important aspects of history, emotions, and ethical issues that affect each generation.

Methods

Research Design

The research follows the procedure shown in Figure.

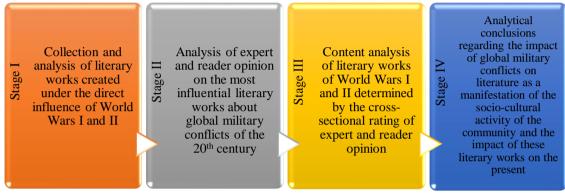


Figure 1. Research design *Source:* created by the author.

Sampling

The studied material was selected by crosssectional rating analysis of reading services (Google Play Books, Amazon Kindle Cloud Reader, OverDrive, Scribd, Kobo Reading App, Wattpad, BookBub, Smashwords, ReadAnyBook, ManyBooks) with the formation of separate chronometric sets of literary works (by rating preferences users of the listed services):

- 10 most influential works about World War I: Henri Barbusse - Le Feu; Erich Maria Remarque - Im Westen nichts Neues; Erich Maria Remarque - Der Weg zurück; Georges Duhamel - Civilization: 1914-1917; Roland Dorgeles - Les croix de bois; Robert Graves -Goodbye to All That; Jaroslav Hašek - Osudy dobrého vojáka Švejka za světové války; Stefan Zweig - Ungeduld des Herzens; Ernst Jünger - In Stahlgewittern; Ernst Jünger -Der Kampf als inneres Erlebnis;
- 10 most influential works about World War II: Elie Wiesel La Nuit; Primo Levi Se questo è un uomo; Anne Frank Het Achterhuis; Viktor Frankl Ein Psychologe erlebt das Konzentrationslager; Elizabeth Bowen The Heat of the Day; Arthur Koestler Sonnenfinsternis; Erich Maria

Remarque - Der schwarze Obelisk; Erich Maria Remarque - Arc de Triomphe; Anna Seghers - Das siebte Kreuz; James G. Ballard - Empire of the Sun.

Methods

- Collection and analysis of literary works created under the direct influence of World Wars I and II: determination of the spectrum of literary works of European authors that covered the events of global conflicts of the 20th century with a separate chronological distribution and creation of the list of the most influential war literature.
- Analysis of expert and reader opinion regarding the most influential literary works on global military conflicts of the 20th century: cross-sectional ranking analysis of expert opinion and reader opinion regarding the definition of literary works that meet the "opinion leader" criterion. The following organizations of literary critics are an expert environment: Association of Literary Scholars, Critics and Writers (ALSCW, 2023); Gale Literature Criticism (Gale, 2023); The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism (Cambridge Core, 2023); International Association for Ethical Literary Criticism (IAELC) (Union of



International Associations, 2023); PEN Ukraine (2023). Expert opinion was determined by relevant reviews of 20 selected most influential literary works being the basis for building a corresponding rating. The reader rating was created according to the preferences of the users of specialized online services: Google Play Books, Amazon Kindle Cloud Reader, OverDrive, Scribd, Kobo Reading App, Wattpad, BookBub, Smashwords, ReadAnyBook, ManyBooks. The overall rating was formed based on the results of the evaluation of the rating of literary critics and the rating of users of online platforms for reading.

3. Content analysis of literary works of World Wars I and II determined by the cross-sectional rating of expert and reader opinion: the use of digital means of text statistics and analytics Voyant Tools for works — "opinion leaders" with the definition of relevant trends and correlations, which provides an idea of stylistic peculiarities of

- each of the analysed representatives of war literature.
- 4. Analytical conclusions regarding the influence of global military conflicts on literature as a manifestation of socio-cultural activity of the community and the influence of these literary works on the present: drawing relevant conclusions about war literature as a means of mental analysis of the destructive consequences of military actions.

Results

The analysis of publicly available reading and literary services gave grounds to make the lists of the most influential literary works created under the direct influence of global military conflicts of the 20th century.

Each of the identified sets of war literature is arranged according to the results of the analysis of expert opinion and reader preferences – Figure 2, Figure 3.

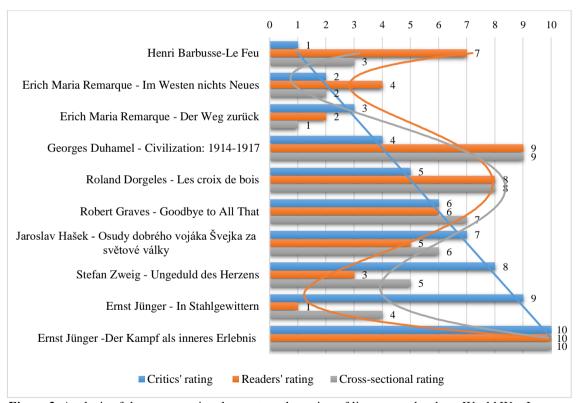


Figure 2. Analysis of the cross-sectional expert-reader rating of literary works about World War I *Source:* created by the author.

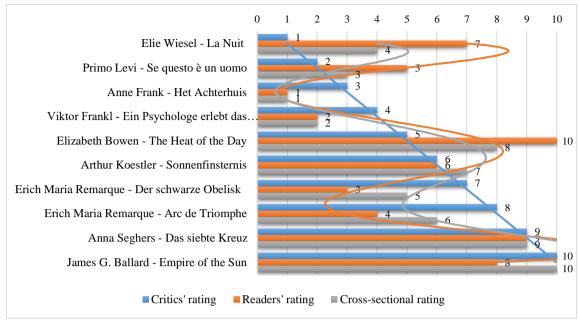


Figure 3. Analysis of the cross-sectional expert-reader rating of literary works about World War II *Source:* created by the author.

The results of the analysis of the cross-sectional expert-reader rating of war literature give grounds to draw the following conclusions:

literary works about World War I are focused on more conceptual general civilizational issues of a society faced with the destructive consequences of military actions. This is confirmed by the applied genre techniques, where fictional realism prevails, which describes the experiences of probable (fictional) heroes of this historical period, their mental state (based on the general impression of military actions) and a philosophical rethinking of war as a destructive phenomenon not only for a certain social group or community, but also for humanity in general. In contrast, the "war" literature of World War II focuses more on the personal experiences and experiences of people who went through the horrors of war with an accurate (or close to it) description of the terrible events of the wartime. These features directly affected the level of correlation between the ratings of specialized critics and the preferences of ordinary readers: fiction-realism did not find a response among a wide readership (the level of correlation between expert opinion and the preferences of the general public for the war literature of World War I — 0.0182), and autobiographical novels significantly respond and appeal to the personal experiences of each of the readers (the level of correlational convergence of expert opinion and preferences of the general

- public for the war literature of World War II -0.3091);
- the predominance of German authors is characteristic for the two selected lists of influential literary works about the global conflicts of the 20th century, which is significant (taking into account the historical role of Germany in the resolution of the described wars) and is explained by the desire of the world community to understand the motives and intentions of nations seeking war. At the same time, There is a toxic and dangerous exchange of concepts takes place, in which the aggressor turns into a victim of circumstances, and not a conscious executor of militant chauvinistic ideas: a grey moral background is formed, which opposes the generally accepted moral concepts of "black" — war and "white" — peace. Therefore, the desire of the world community to increase the cultural influence of the aggressor nations seems rather strange, as opposed to a rational rethinking of the historical roles of each of the parties to global conflicts and preventing the repetition of frankly anti-civilizational events in the future;
- according to the cross-sectional expert-reader rating of the war literature of World War I, the work of Erich Maria Remarque Der Weg zurück, which showed a high convergence of the cross-sectional rating, both in the expert rating (0.5273), and in the preferences of a wide range of readers (0.7818), received the highest correlational convergence of ratings of critics and the



general public. At the same time, the work Le Feu by Henri Barbusse (fictional realism) received most of the positive reviews among critics, and In Stahlgewittern by Ernst Jünger (autobiographical memoirs) among readers, which confirms the previous conclusions about personal sympathy for the authors' real experience shaped in an appropriate literary form;

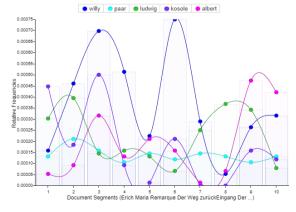
according to the cross-sectional expertreader rating of the war literature of World War II, the work Het Achterhuis by Anne Frank received the greatest correlational convergence of the ratings of critics and the general public, which showed a high convergence of the cross-sectional rating, both in the expert rating (0.7818) and in preferences of a wide range of readers (0.8182). At the same time, a characteristic feature for literary works about World War II is a greater correlational convergence between experts' assessments, readers' preferences, and cross-sectional rating assessment. The established feature is particularly confirmed by the fact that the work Het Achterhuis by Anne Frank took a leading position not only in the crosssectional rating, but also in terms of the preferences of a wide range of readers with a relatively high rating from critics. However, it is worth noting that even among autobiographical war works, the occupation experience of a little girl appealed more to readers' sympathy and empathy, while critics preferred a novel about a systemic phenomenon — German concentration camps.

 Authors of selected sets of leading war literary works condemn military actions, presenting philosophical concepts of peace through the prism of psychological experiences of individuals and communities that have experienced the horrors of war.

A contextual analysis for the leaders of the cross-sectional rating is performed using *Voyant Tools*:

- Erich Maria Remarque Der Weg zurück –
- Figure;
- Anne Frank Het Achterhuis -
- Figure.





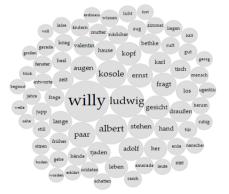
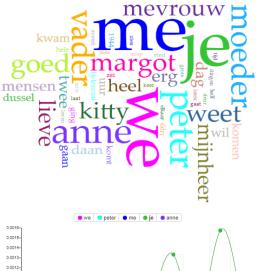




Figure 4. Content analysis of Der Weg zurück by Erich Maria Remarque *Source:* created by the author in Voyant Tools.



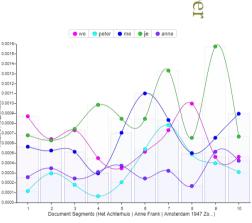


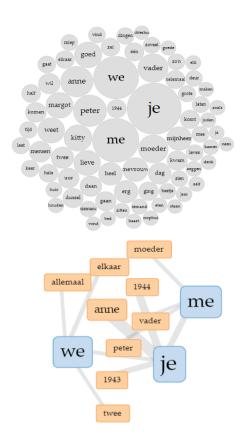
Figure 5. Content analysis of Het Achterhuis by Anne Frank. Source: created by the author in Voyant Tools.

The content analysis of the literary work Der Weg zurück by Erich Maria Remarque in Voyant Tools (Figure 4) gave grounds to establish the following accents:

- total number of words -76,045;
- total number of unique word forms 10,393;
- vocabulary density: 0.137;
- readability index: 11.646;
- average number of words in a sentence:
 13.2;
- the most frequently used words: Willy (283) (hero's name); Ludwig (170) (hero's name);
 Albert (147) (hero's name); Kosole (131) (hero's surname); paar (105) (pair).

The content analysis of the literary work Het Achterhuis by Anne Frank in Voyant Tools (Figure 5) gave grounds to establish the following accents:

- total number of words -78,182;
- total number of unique word forms − 8 603;
- vocabulary density: 0.110
- readability index: 9.137
- average number of words in a sentence: 17,7;



- the most frequently used words: je (699) (you); me (514) (I); we (484) (we); Peter (263) (hero's name); Anne (249) (hero's name).

A comparative analysis of the results of the content analysis of the leaders of sets of literary works about the global conflicts of the 20^{th} century indicate the following aspects:

- preliminary conclusions of the cross-expertreader rating of war literature regarding the focus of the literary works of World War I on general social concepts (as evidenced by the set of the most used words in Der Weg zurück by Erich Maria Remarque, which mainly refer to third persons –
- Figure) were empirically confirmed. At the same time, the authors of literary works about World War II seek to convey personal experiences in more detail (as evidenced by the set of the most used words in Het Achterhuis by Anne Frank, which mainly refer to the first persons –
- Figure);
- the literary and technical feature of the compared works also confirms the conclusions of the cross-sectional expert-





reader rating of war literature: Erich Maria Remarque uses a wider list of words and original word forms, focusing on the literary beauty of the produced work. On the contrary, Anne Frank keeps the focus on the emotional component of the literary work, making less use of available speech and stylistic constructions, while adhering to the ordinary form of the story instead, which had an appropriate response among the general public of readers, even among modern youth (Reuter, 2023; Kröncke, 2020);

the authors of the compared literary works use the historical context for different purposes: Erich Maria Remarque - for a systemic rethinking of the destructive consequences of war in the general paradigm of humanism, Anne Frank – for conveying personal experiences and horrors of war.

Regardless of the different approach of the authors determined by the leading positions in the cross-expert-reader rating, their works focus the reader on the problems of psychosocial experience of military actions and their consequences, which, scaling from one person to the general public, point to humanity's false perception of romanticism, honour and victory of war. The authors reveal the psychosocial aspect of war, testifying to post-traumatic stress, the moral weight of military actions, the loss of innocence, as well as the search for a way to survive in extreme conditions. The analysed literary works emphasize that the real picture of war does not coincide with romantic ideas or heroic stereotypes, but consists of a painful reality that leaves a deep mark in people's hearts. Noting the role of these works in the twentiethcentury literature, it can be argued that they are evidence of the real impact of global military conflicts on the socio-cultural structures of the community. The symbolism, imagery, and style of these works help reveal the tragic nature of war and the importance of peace, with the goal of preventing similar horrors in the future.

So, the analysis of literary works about global military conflicts during the 20th century reveals the significant impact of these events on the mentality of humanity and contributes to the formation of a critical perception of the true consequences of the military situation. They create a dialogue between the past and the present, and their messages become especially relevant in a world where peace and balance are a necessary condition for a dignified life for humanity.

Discussion

We compare the obtained results with similar works on the determined experimental vector.

Despite slightly different research focuses, this work and the study of Ribeiro and Thomaz (2023) and Nicolaescu (2018) demonstrate the need to fight against stereotypical images when studying the literary interpretation of armed confrontations of global military conflicts of the 20th century. Both studies do not indicate the need for a systemic rethinking of "war" creativity in order to determine the still undefined factors and aspects of the community's sociocultural response to military destruction. However, the results of this study are more specific and give grounds to determine the difference in the authors' approach to the coverage of World Wars I and II.

The problems addressed by Shoebottom (2023) correlate with the revealed aspects of this study in terms of the selectivity of cultural memory about the war. Scientist established the influence of post-war paradigms on the interpretation of the military context of historical events, as opposed to the initial ideology under which military actions were initiated. This aspect is superficially confirmed in this study, establishing the fact that a significant amount of war literature is created by German authors.

According to the finding of Moreshead (2023) and Ojeda Revah (2022), the dynamics of changing the genre and stylistic presentation of literary works and the formation of post-war modernism are noted. The mentioned dynamics are confirmed in this study, while clearer characteristics of the transition from the general concepts and fiction-realism of the war literature of World War I to the autobiographical novels of World War II are established.

One of the main aspects of this study and the research by Mishra (2023), Petrauskas (2021) and Post (2021) is that "war" literature destroys the myths of romanticism and the success of military actions, forming experiences of the real horrors of war in the readers. Scientist, as well as this study, also declares that literary works about military conflicts make it possible to form a thesis among a wide audience of readers that military actions are a useless solution to conflicts do not contribute to civilizational and development.

Wróblewski (2023) recorded the beginning of the stylistic genre transition in war literature, which



was established in this study. The publication states that literary works that reflect the personal experiences of authors have the greatest response among readers. This is empirically confirmed in this study.

The article (Blažić, 2023; Massocco, 2022) provides a substantive description of the use of fictional stylistics to convey the horrors of war. This study found that this approach is more characteristic of the war literature of World War I.

This study, like the study by Ugli (2022), records the direct impact of global military conflicts of the 20th century on literature. The conclusions regarding the importance of the literary interpretation of the historical context of terrible military actions and armed confrontations correlate.

Campobasso (2022), Nowakowska (2023) and Stingle (2023) note the importance of the literary response to the terrifying consequences of the war. This study, as the publication by scientist recorded that the literary interpretation of military actions allows to rethink their moral context and warn future generations.

This study also confirmed the thesis of Dagnino (2022) that not only war affects literature, but also war literature affects other aspects of sociocultural activity: from religion to political attitudes. The literature on global military conflicts of the 20th century was one of the main elements of the socio-cultural sphere that shaped the moral and ethical principles of post-war communities.

The publication of Ferris (2022), as well as this study, established the fact of genre-stylistic dynamics of literary interpretation and literary response to the global military conflicts of the 20th century, which in some places moved into the plane of creative experimentation, thanks to which new approaches and methods of presenting creative material were formed. However, this study records the transition from fiction realism to autobiographical works, and the study by scientist establishes the connection between spatiality and visuality in post-war literature.

In general, this study significantly correlates with the conclusions of the reviewed relevant and current studies, but contains more substantive observations that indicate the evolution of war literature and its influence on the moral and ethical values of the post-war community.

Conclusions

Relevance

History teaches humanity many lessons about the futility and outright worthlessness of armed conflicts, but society constantly makes this terrible mistake. Even now, the unprovoked armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine is ongoing in the centre of Europe. Literature, as one of the vivid examples of socio-cultural activity of the community, calls for rethinking and moral and ethical assessment of the historical context of the consequences of global conflicts in order to prevent such destructive effects in the future. The more a wide circle of readers of war literature learns about the horrors of war, the higher the probability of preventing such frankly anti-civilizational actions that plunge humanity into dark times. It is relevant to popularize and convey the features of the best examples of war literature, which has the potential to influence society.

Findings

The research results gave grounds to make two lists of literary works covering the events of the World Wars I and II. The leading positions were established according to the results of the expertreader rating: for World War I – Der Weg zurück by Erich Maria Remarque, for World War II -Het Achterhuis by Anne Frank. The stylistic and genre dynamics of the transition of the war literature of the first sample, characterized mostly by fiction realism, to the autobiographical literary works of the second sample was established. The results of the content analysis of the leading works of war literature empirically confirmed the change of the literary paradigm from generalized structural reflections on morality and ethics in the conditions of war (during World War I) to the literary translation of personal experiences and life experiences during the military horrors (during World War II). The authors of relevant and current publications also testify to the results of this study in terms of establishing the influence of global military conflicts of the 20th century on literature and the subsequent influence of literary reaction on other socio-cultural manifestations. An interesting fact is the established fact of sending German authors in exemplary works of war literature.

Applications

The obtained research results are of practical importance for various spheres of activity. They can be used in the field of literary studies for





detailed analysis and interpretation of literary works about global military conflicts of the 20th century. Moreover, they can become the basis for the preparation of teaching material for the study of the theme of war and peace in literature in Literature and History classes. The application of the research results will help to raise awareness about the real consequences of military conflicts and will influence the formation of humanistic values in society.

Prospects for Further Research

The study of the problem of war and peace in literature can be expanded by including additional literary works from various European countries, which were also created under the influence of global military conflicts. Comparing the literary works of different authors and national schools can shed light on the diversity of approaches to depicting the theme of war and peace. Besides, further research may include examining the influence of these literary works on contemporary literature and culture, as well as their role in shaping society's worldview and moral values. Taking such aspects into account will provide a more complete picture of the impact of global military conflicts on European literature and contribute to the development of a humanistic worldview in the modern world.

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