



## **MILITARY PROSE IN RUSSIAN LITERATURE OF THE XX CENTURY: MAIN STAGES AND ARTISTIC FEATURES**

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### **Abstract**

The article is devoted to the analysis of military prose in Russian literature of the XX century as one of the leading thematic and artistic directions. The main stages of the development of military prose associated with the historical events of the century, as well as the key features of its poetics, are considered: documentary, moral issues, attention to the inner world of a person in war. Based on the works of Russian writers of the 20th century, changes in the interpretation of the image of war are revealed: from heroic and patriotic pathos to tragic and critical understanding of the military experience.

**Keywords:** Military prose, Russian literature of the XX century, the image of war, the Great Patriotic War, moral issues.

### **Introduction**

The military theme occupies a special place in Russian literature of the XX century. The history of the country during this period was inextricably linked with wars and social disasters, which could not but be reflected in artistic creativity. The First World War, the Civil War, the Great Patriotic War, as well as subsequent military conflicts had a significant impact on the formation of the literary process. The military prose of the 20th century has become an important means of comprehending the tragic historical experience, the fate of man in war, the problem of moral choice and responsibility. Unlike the literature of the 19th century, where war was often depicted within the framework of a historical novel or epic, the prose of the 20th century refers primarily to the personal experience of war.

The purpose of this article is to consider the main stages of the development of military prose in Russian literature of the XX century and to identify its characteristic artistic features. The objectives of the research include the analysis of early forms of military prose, works about the Great Patriotic War and literature of the post-war period.

### **1. The concept and features of military prose**

Military prose is a set of works of art, in the center of which is the depiction of war as a social and moral test for a person. Researchers note that the military prose of the 20th century is distinguished by a high degree of documentary, attention to the everyday experience of war and a refusal to romanticize military operations [8, pp. 41–44].

The main features of military prose include:

- the depiction of the war "from the inside", through the eyes of a participant in the events;
- attention to the psychological state of a person;
- moral issues and the topic of responsibility;
- a combination of fiction and documentary principles;
- critical attitude to war as a phenomenon.

The military prose of the 20th century is formed in close connection with the personal front-line experience of writers, which gives the works a special authenticity and emotional intensity [9, pp. 118–121].

### **2. Early military prose of the XX century**

The beginning of the XX century is associated with the appearance of works dedicated to the First World War and the Civil War. During this period, military prose often had a journalistic character and was focused on the comprehension of historical upheavals.

Early military prose is characterized by a combination of heroic revolutionary motifs with a tragic perception of war. Writers strive to show not only the mass nature of military events, but also the fate of an individual drawn into the whirlwind of history [5, pp. 76–79].

In these works, war is still often perceived as a means to achieve a historical goal, but motives for the destruction of personality, cruelty and loss of human values already appear.

### **3. Military prose about the Great Patriotic War**

The central place in the military prose of the XX century is occupied by the literature about the Great Patriotic War. It was during this period that the basic artistic principles of depicting war were formed, which influenced the subsequent development of literature.

The works of the first post-war years are distinguished by heroic and patriotic pathos, the desire to assert the image of heroism and national unity [6, pp. 132–135]. However, already in the 1950s and 1960s, literature increased attention to the tragic side of the war, to the fate of the "little man" at the front.

Writers turn to the depiction of everyday front-line life, fear, fatigue, moral doubts. War is no longer perceived exclusively as a space of heroism and is increasingly understood as a difficult moral test [7, pp. 241–245].

### **4. Military prose of the second half of the XX century**

In the second half of the 20th century, military prose acquired a more critical and philosophical character. Writers seek to rethink the military experience, to show its long-term consequences for the individual and society.

Particular attention is paid to the theme of memory, responsibility for the past, and the traumatic experience of war. In the works of this period, the tragic sound is intensified, the motif of loss of faith in the justice of war as such appears [3, pp. 58–61].

The war is portrayed not as a heroic event, but as a catastrophe that cripples human destinies. This approach contributes to the formation of anti-war pathos, characteristic of late military prose.

### **5. Artistic features of military prose**

Military prose of the XX century is distinguished by a number of stable artistic features. One of them is the documentary nature, which manifests itself in the accuracy of details, the use of front-line life, real events and personal memories [9, pp. 203–206].

Psychologism plays an important role: attention is focused on the inner state of the hero, his fears, doubts, moral choices. The language of military prose is often close to colloquial speech, which enhances the effect of authenticity and emotional impact.

Thus, the military prose of the 20th century is a complex artistic phenomenon that combines elements of documentary evidence and a deep philosophical understanding of the war.

## **Conclusion**

Military prose in Russian literature of the 20th century has passed a difficult path of development, reflecting changes in public consciousness and the historical experience of the people. From the heroic and patriotic works of the early period, literature gradually comes to a tragic and critical understanding of war as a phenomenon.

A characteristic feature of military prose is attention to the inner world of a person, his moral choice and responsibility. In the works of Russian writers of the 20th century, war appears not only as a historical event, but also as a universal test of the human personality.

Thus, military prose occupies one of the central places in Russian literature of the 20th century, being an important means of preserving historical memory and moral understanding of the past.

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