

## CHALLENGES OF LINGUO-PRAGMATIC ASPECT OF GENDER DISCOURSE IN LITERARY TEXT

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### ABSTRACT

*This article is based on basic issues and peculiarities of linguo-pragmatic aspect of discourse related to gender in the fiction. Female fiction discourse includes peculiar specificity of outlook and gender in linguistic features, presenting female linguistic personality. The main directions to expose the linguistic awareness of the female linguistic personality in the literary text in terms of cognitive linguistics are given in the article. One of the ways to show the cognitive level of female linguistic personality in the literary text is considered in the concept “man”, containing the object, image, bearing, notional and valuation, estimative constituents. The results of the article can be utilized to create gender tendencies in modern society and they can supply the material to predict treatment, approach, attitude, manner, status and behavior of women. The analysis of female literature, conducted in this investigation, is used against the sociological research of gender and orientations on family, love, marriage in the women society.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Awareness, A Gender, A Female Discourse, Linguistic Aspects, A Concept “Man”, Behavior, Reproductive Behavior, Stereotype.*

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### I. INTRODUCTION

The main wave of interest to philosophical analysis of language and text problems contained gender investigations, a young discipline, rather popular in Western and American, but still inhancing momentum in Russian humanitaristics (Avery & Liss, 1996 [2]). Under the last one, a specific sphere, studying the problem of language and gender interrelationship of linguistics, was made, it is being improved in close relation with feminist criticism of language. In 1980, the notion of text becomes “one of the conceptual ideas of the feminist criticism of language even for those authors, for which the subject of language or literature does not represent the essential subject of investigation”. Female literature shows a complex cultural phenomenon, combining the woman-author and the woman-reader, and representing the particular feature of female linguistic worldview. “Female” literary text recreates a specific cast of the epoch, represents a mode of personality of the new epoch, born in keeping with gender canons and daily stereotypes. In female prose, we see the expression of origin of stereotypes in sexual, marriage and reproductive behavior of woman. Thus, we observe the reflection of stable matrimonial stereotypes of society in female prose: 1) Only official marriage; 2) Impermissibility of divorce; 3) Impermissibility of infidelity (divorce and infidelity were considered as sins); 4) Obligatory

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marriage (early and total marriage, the share of final celibacy is nearly 5 %); 5) Widowhood is the visitation; 6) The desirability for remarriage (but not the third-fourth). [3]

Earlier, the woman, being the treasurer of purity of generation and family, had the strictly regulated sexual behavior. In this connection, the sexual female behavior was characterized by the following allowable features:

- 1) Moral-religious sexuality;
- 2) Veneration of chastity, moderateness, blush and virginity;
- 3) Condemnation of unproductive sexual relationship.

Reproductive female behavior was respected in all layers of society. However, on the one hand, children present the undeniable value of family and society (what was conditioned by the economic reasons), but on the other hand, children demanded basic expenditures especially in the prime of life. Alongside with that, regulation of birth rate and interruption of pregnancy were prohibited. There are interrelation points between the processes of female emancipation and development processes of the phenomenon of female prose. Women-writers open a new woman's world in their works, as viewed by women, and suggest the society not only new themes, but also new behavior samples, assert women's rights for independent choice, individual fate. A phenomenon of female emancipation resulted in the change of stereotypes of female behavior in the society; it was also reflected in the female prose. Thus, modern female matrimonial behavior admits the following: 1) Civil marriage (and other forms of marriage: guest marriage, marriage of convenience, heterism, fictitious, temporary, virtual marriage etc.); 2) Admissibility of divorce; 3) Admissibility of infidelity and free relations; 4) Admissibility of celibacy and orientation at the career; 5) Sympathetic relation to widowhood.

The struggle of new and old stereotypes resulted in escalation of the main female theme expectation of prince. According to the famous writer V. Tokareva, the main theme of the woman's creative work is the grief for the ideal. "A man in his creative work is oriented at the God. The woman is oriented at the man. However, the object of love does not relate to the ideal. Then, the woman suffers and writes about it. The main theme of woman's creative work is the grief for the ideal". Thus, when studying gender methodology of the text analysis, it shall be noted, that it was the first, where the themes of gender and language interconnection began to be problematized, as well as the specificity of man and woman communication, discourse, woman's authorship and writing at philosophical level. At that, this methodology focused attention on exposure and elimination of various orientations of patriarchal culture: male (writing, language, discourse, text) is a standard, female is a deviation; male is positive, female is negative; man dominates in language, woman is hidden. At that, the alternative orientations were suggested: speaking (discourse, writing) on behalf of the woman both in the dialogue and in the culture; reconsideration of history in her female version (her-story); rearrangement of axiological accents, removal of "negative image", when evaluating the female text; the formation of specifically female view, special way for female reading and writing, the creation of female text, free from male domination. Undoubtedly, human consciousness has a great role in development and support of gender system. As a rule, modeling of gender identity begins in childhood, where the whole "traditional culture of childhood acts as a guidance mechanism of one or another form of social identity", and "the feminist movement has already effected a lot on text representations

of women, men, boys and girls”. Later, the individual gender consciousness is being constructed by means of distribution and support of social and cultural stereotypes, standards and regulations; if people break them, they are punished by the society (for instance, the labels “a virago” or “a man, who behaves like a woman” are experienced by people rather painfully, and they can cause not only stresses, but different types of mental disorders). [6]

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The literary texts of women prose writers of the modern literature of the XX-XXI centuries showed and described the empiric material, as well as theoretic data, accumulated in different spheres of modern linguistics: in text linguistics, linguo-poetics, cognitive linguistics, stylistics, literary text. The basic works of V. Tokareva, L. Ulitskaya, O. Robsky, M. Krasheninnikova, N. Sukhanova, L. Petrushevskaya were analyzed, which brightly presents modern women social and linguistic consciousness. From the works of V. Tokareva, we took the following: “Instead of me” (1995), “The Conservation Law” (2007), “As soon as the Mist has fallen...” (2007), “Horses with Wings” (2004), “To Say or not to Say” (1991), “Do not Create” (2011), “Anton, Put on the Shoes” (2001), “The Greek was Riding” (2007), “Apologize. They will not Shoot” (2007), “One Block of Hope” (2011), “A Long Day” (2000), “Zigzag” (2008), “The Dog was Walking along the Piano” (1995). The creative work of Ludmila Ulitskaya is presented by such works, as “The Queen of Spades” (2001), “Medea and her Children” (2012), “Zu-urich” (2005), “The Women of Russian Villages” (2008).

In her novel “Medea and her Children”, L. Ulitskaya illustrates the new female formation of myths. We can see family behavior of single woman inside huge generation, her motivation for celibacy, her attitude towards children and the attitude of surrounding people (relatives or unfamiliar) towards the main character Medea Mendes. Depicting the family interrelations, starting from the 10th century and finishing with 1995, L. Ulitskaya demonstrates the evolution of woman’s behavior in love and marriage. We see those metamorphoses, happening with the lead character, were inevitable. The author postulates, that the family is the essential value. Special interpretation of family problematics, presented by L. Ulitskaya, conditioned high concentration of dialogues, where the interpersonal and intergenerational relations are revealed, as well as the monologues, reflecting the characters’ inner world. Besides, the novel author principally draws attention to the fact, that at the pleasure of Fate, numerous relatives of Medea turned out to be scattered all over the world (Georgia, Israel, Lithuania, Siberia, Italy, Central Asia, Haiti, the USA), that is why “the other”, “foreign” traits penetrate into the life itself and into the characters of relatives (other national influences, other traditions, customs etc.), but the family, married origin overrules: they all tend to bring their children to Crimea, to the motherland of their ancestors. Here L. Ulitskaya shows, how the “modeling of linguistic personality takes place in conditions of globalization and migration”. The author utilizes the dualism of female and male in the story “Zu-urich”. The main male part in this piece is the role of foreign prince, some hero-saver, which is connected with the implementation of secret female dream, with the illusion of wonderful transformation of “the last” into “the first”. Matrimonial ambitions of the lead character are underlined by the sphere of material-physical and everyday existence of the leading character Lidiya or Lidka the Goose. At the same time, the male world is mainly perceived in fairytale-mythological plane. The breakthrough from the vicious circle of the monotonous everyday life of Lidka the Goose the foreign marriage of the heroine becomes possible thanks to the unexpected-fairytale appearance of the man-hero in the everyday life. It is

important to say, that the author managed to notice the main traits of matrimonial behavior of contemporary Russian women, able to marry any foreigner, even if he is a migrant worker. The investigator of glamorous life O. Robskyis presented by her novel "CASUAL/The Everyday" (2005). This ironical story-telling differs from the female narration of other writers by the importance of narration, presentation and the heroes themselves. L. Petrushevskaya in her pieces "The Possibility of Mennipean. Three Voyages" (2000), "Where I was" (2002) is aligned with T. E. A. Gofman, whose worlds of reality and irreality were interpenetrated in such a way, that the readers were frequently enmeshed in his worlds.

Methodological novelty of the text analysis has become the fact, that, firstly, the sphere of investigation was expanded (the possibilities to study female texts, female writing and authorship appeared), and secondly, absolutely new methods and ways of investigation appeared (including the phenomena of female reading, the specificity of female perception). The development process of gender methodology of text analysis was closely related with the same processes in modern philosophical movements. On the one hand, feminist critics used structural and postmodern results in their methodology, on the other hand, the representatives of post structural and postmodern philosophy (Derrida, Kristeva, Lakan and others) were in many ways based on the concepts of feminism and gender investigations. For instance, J. Derrida, denying the old text approach: "to use them "inorder to get profit", appealed for working with texts under the dialogue principle, the search for something, that was not articulated in the text; he admitted "the existence of the variety of cultural interpretations" (Derrida, 2012 [8]). Female literature unites the literary texts, created by women mainly for women. At that, it is necessary to note, that "the author's and reader-investigator's gender, in other words, gender system of the society influences much on creation and interpretation of literary pieces".

Gender relations express a vital aspect of social organization. They basically present its system characteristics and formation of relations between speakers. The major theoretical-methodological provisions of the gender notion are based on four interrelated components: they are the cultural symbols; normative statements, specifying the directions for possible interpretations of these symbols, being expressed in religious, scientific, law and political doctrines; social institutes and organizations; self-identification of the personality (Bianchi, 2008 [4]). Gender relations are fixed in language as culturally specified stereotypes, imprinting on behavior, containing speech one, personality and linguistic socialization (Cameron, 2007, 2012 [5,6]).

In the course of investigation, the methods, traditional for gender studies, were used A method of linguistic observation and description of certain linguistic facts, in order to get the concluding information, accomplished by ways of interpretational methodology, partial usage of the component and contextual analysis. The methods of linguistic pragmatics, involving the analysis of speech modality; rhetorical analysis, presupposing the revelation of the rhetorical devices and speech figurativeness, most typical of the female discourse. [10]

### III. RESULTS

In spite of the fact, that the modern woman in the studied texts is showed as self-sufficient, individual personality, she is in constant need to feel herself weak, to be beloved, what is related only with the man, what is predetermined by nature. A concept "MAN" in the discourse of modern female text is depersonalized by various devices, included to its basic part: man,

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husband, boyfriend, friend. The means of objectivities of the nearest periphery of this notion are the following synonyms: the husband, the partner, the stronger sex, the host, the man etc.; the words with the same root: male, masculine. For example: "He was young aged eighteen, not more, and tall, one hundred and ninety centimeters, not less. And each millimeter was well thought out by nature. Obviously, the nature executed the strict natural selection for more than one hundred years, prior to create such individual." (Tokareva. The Conservation Law). The far periphery includes the following linguistic modes of text associates: unscrupulous lover, champion of egoism, the object of great love, a prize in life, the builder of the best life, a luxurious animal, a fragile genius, atransit lover, guest actor etc. For instance: 1) "Finally, the door opened and a real man came in, the builder of the best life" (Tokareva. As soon as the Mist has fallen...); 2) "She had a rarely successful love, for the sake of which she left her first indistinct husband, and she suffered from the object of her great love, gave birth to Grishka from him and was running to her scrupulous lover for the thirteenth year, had rare meetings and postponed over the years the moment of real, not one-sided acquaintance of son with the secret father" (Ulitskaya. The Queen of Spades).

The main markers, describing the man image, are the lexemes, presenting the appearance and character of the man, as viewed by women (personage and author). To represent the man image, the women-authors use the whole spectrum of figurative-vivid means of the language. The description of appearance is implemented in the following lexical units: "patterned man", beautiful, mysterious, disappointed as Lermontov, a beautiful beast, well-knit, beautiful, with muscles, as the Bronze Horseman, ungainly, a handsome, young man, elegant. Let us consider the examples: 1) "When he moved from place to place, it came to mind, that this man is a beautiful beast" (V. Tokareva. Horses with Wings); 2) "He was so beautiful, with muscles, as the Bronze Horseman. It was so pleasant to fall asleep and to wake up under his hard, as slab, hand" (Tokareva. To Say or not to Say).

A combination beautiful beast conveys the male beauty in women's presentation: beautiful, strong, subtle. A man with muscles presents the protection and support for a woman. The following sample exposes the woman's feature to create the man's ideal (seemed to be), where the traits of the favorite hero are combined: "Inaccessibility makes not only woman, but also man beautiful. Trofimov seemed to be beautiful, enigmatic, disappointed, as Lermontov" (Tokareva. Do not create). A combination of external beauty and confidence in a man attracts almost all women, even if the man lacks inner brightness, for instance: "Properly, there was no any choice, and he was very attractive, well-knit and free in behavior. Although he lacked inner brightness, which was so valuable for Nika, but, frankly speaking, neither calling signals came from him" (Ulitskaya. Medea and her Children). When describing the appearance, the developing function of ontological utterances is implemented. Separate traits, details are presented as if in close-up view, the narration becomes personally-colored. For instance: "The mouth, well-shaped by the chin, was the determining part of his face. As well as the smile, well grounded by his essence. The smile up to the end. The teeth were clean, pure-blooded, wolfish. A good smile. It was unclear with the eyes. Under the glasses. Lena could not catch their expression. Any continuous arrhythmia. The eyes of the crazy person. The good post of the neck.

The usage of diminutives in female literary discourse illustrates the woman's relation towards man and implement to the speech the additional emotional-expressive shades of caress, sympathy, disregard, irony etc. For instance: "He turned out to be not so young, although rather

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apple-cheeked, a little overweight, he was forty-eight at that times! However, the face was very smooth, absolutely without wrinkles, the tan was even. Only the top of the head was bald” (Ulitskaya. Zuurich).

The appearance, character, the sphere of heroes’ activity is repeatedly represented by means of collection, creating the impact of bright expression. “He was thirty-seven, divorced, beautiful, no bad habits, which would catch the eyes: non-user, not the freak, the homosexual or the pedophile; presented the flowers; was not the impotent; asked about the mother’s health...” (Robsky. CASUAL, The Everyday).

The man’s character is described by means of the lexemes, revealing the main traits of the man’s inner world, as viewed by the woman: the champion of egoism, positive man, scrupulous and independent, sly, witty, childish relaxedness, smart, reliable, tenderness towards children and independence, inaccessible. Let us present the peculiarities of the man’s inner world, as expressed by the women-authors: “He left Lesha with the mixed feeling. This man attracted her with his dream, tenderness to children and independence”. (Krasheninnikova.).

The man’s character is introduced in the discourse of female prose as complex, combining the opposites (talented, ungifted, egoism, creative individuality), for instance: 1) “His character, as per the dialectics law, combined the opposites: he loved his wife and other beautiful women, he was talented in communication with people and ungifted, when alone with himself, i.e. in his creative work” (Tokareva. The Conservation Law); 2) “You give nothing. You are the champion of egoism and here is your creative individuality. You prefer to live in comfort.

—What do you mean to live in comfort?

—Comfortable job: both occupied and free. Comfortable son: he is both exists and not. Comfortable woman: you can come and leave...” (Tokareva. The Greek was Riding).

In the discourse of modern female prose, the gender role of the man is revealed by means of lexical units, which reflect the number of samples of social behavior or the standards of behavior of the man in the current social position in the texts of modern women-writers: a man-husband, a man-lover, a man-child: 1) “You even do not understand, how we loved each other. Loved being sober and drunk. Especially drunk. He was a great lover” (Ulitskaya. The Women of Russian Villages); 2) “The wife impeded everywhere; she treated the husband as a schoolboy, who does not learn lessons” (Petrushevskaya. A Possibility of Mennipean. Three Voyages).

Lexical-grammatical group “Gender role” involves the lexemes, revealing the man’s essence: a wedded husband, the stronger sex, a real man, a builder of the best life, a great lover, the protector, the individual, a master of life, a small child, a son, a husband to grow into, the object of great love, unscrupulous easy-rider, scrupulous lover etc. For instance: “They had no children, but Vakhtang successfully replaced a son. He needed the food cooked, the clothes washed, he had to be consoled and he received the pocket money. However, he was not the son”(Tokareva. To Say or not to Say...).

This example demonstrates the attitude of woman towards the beloved man, as towards the son (but Vakhtang successfully replaced a son). One of the man’s roles is the role of child, whom the whole mother’s love is aimed at. To characterize a man, the lexemes with positive and negative components are distinguished. Lexico-grammatical group “Ideal” unites the lexemes, expressing

positive evaluative component: divorced, beautiful, no harm habits, sober husband, staying at home and reading Dickens, a reward in life, a gift, a life, happiness, love, a heroic deed of changes, the creative flight, full independence, the dream, her dare husband, anugget, exclusive, fragile genius, extraordinary, beautiful and impudent, he is a man to fingertips, shocking, and it is not important, drunk, sober, excellent lover, talented, tender, a wonderful person.

The ideal man in female literary texts, firstly, sober stays with family. For instance: “Her friends did not dare to dream about such happiness, as a sober husband, staying at home and reading Dickens” (Tokareva. A Long Day). The relation of woman to contradictory advantages of the man can be presented by the following examples: 1) “Nevertheless, men and women are completely various biological individuals. Elisev loved women. Women understood him. He could lie drunk, in snots, and they said, that he was elegant, extraordinary, fragile genius”

(Tokareva. Anton, put on the Shoes!); 2) “Butonov was an excellent lover, it was measured by centimeters, minutes, hours, the quantity of hormones in blood. He had good appearance and that all! Your Alik is a perfect person, smart, talented. Butonov cannot hold a candle on him, but Alik is just unworthy of you.

—Shut up! cried Masha. Shut up! Take your Butonov with all his centimeters!” (Ulitskaya. Medea and her Children).

All above given samples show, that the woman’s choice of the man, as the love object, is not always clear and not always answer to logics. He could lie drunk in snots, and they said, that he was elegant, extraordinary, fragile genius. In ideal women’s presentation, the man shall be beautiful (luxurious beast), talented (creative fly), gifted (fragile genius), excellent lover (measured in centimeters), shall be sober family man (sober husband, staying at home). The lexico-grammatical group “Anti-ideal” in the discourse of modern female prose is presented by the lexemes with negative evaluative component: indistinct husband, complete turkey-cock, unhappy swaggerer, devil, careerist and egoist, sniveller, cissy, duster, cowardly and hesitating, cad, barnstormer, backward stub, transit lover, ungifted, ungainly. For instance: 1) “You like to strike, said the wife. You are the miserable swaggerer” (Tokareva. Zigzag); 2) “...I know you. You are cowardly and hesitating” (Tokareva. The Dog was walking along the Piano).

In the discourse of modern female prose, the man’s image is presented by means of different lexical impressive means, for instance, intensifying adjectives and adverbs, comparisons, metaphors, metonymy, periphrases, irony, the words with bright expressive coloring. At first sight, a man in the meaning of women-authors is revealed in unattractive way: egoist, unscrupulous lover, sniveller, coward and drunkard: “She had different magnificent relations: brave test-pilot and well-known Jewish academician, witty and unscrupulous lover and young actor, a tributary of early glory and earlier alcoholism” (Ulitskaya. Medea and her Children).

In modern female fiction, we see a persistent “search for the ideal”, which reflects new tendencies in family-marriage relations of postindustrial society. Now all these changes are based on such phenomena, as the growing personal liberty, developing momentum individualism, strengthening principle “The family for a person”, actualization of the human right for the intimacy, irrespective of the society. If the family arises, then the equal relations are put at the head, then the stability of marriage is determined by the quality level of mutual relations between partners.

#### IV. DISCUSSION

Thus, the representatives of female prose remark the growth of psychologization and intimization in modern family, resulting in the growth of love matches and leaving the marriage of convenience. The sociologists mention, and it is proved by modern women-writers, such situation makes the family instable due to the fact, that the partners make the psychological motives of top priority, as the demands of both men and women to the emotional sphere of marriage have increased. In modern cognitive linguistics, the text is considered as a way of fixation of individual consciousness of its author (Ewans, 2014 [9]). Each text is based not only on the judgment about the reality, but also on the certain communicative purposeful orientation, defined by the situation of communication and tasks, set by the author. A concept, as a key word, plays a determining the importance in creative process of text writing: it effects on the selection of speech figures, and also bears key ideas of personal outlook, characterizes the individual style of creative linguistic personality. A notion is a combination of cognitive level in structure of female linguistic personality. A concept, verbalized in the discourse of female prose, represents the female linguistic personality and describes the specificity of language and style of the woman-author. In the texts of female prose, a concept "MAN" is marked based on frequency marker; it is semantically loaded, as it presents one of the basic concentration points of meaning and energy of ideas of the woman-author. For a woman, a man stays to be a personification of her heart's desires: love, happiness and life.

The search for the ideal man, the desire to the ideal life, the feeling of loneliness and guilt accompany the woman for the whole life: grief, happiness of previous years, fear of loneliness, misfortune, to search, to wait, the last wagon of hope. In the texts of female prose, the man is "what every woman needs": "Don't understand, don't understand, Emma shook her head. He is fabulous, and it is not important, if he is drunk or sober. He is the one that every woman needs. He is the man to the fingertips. He is just on hunkers. And he brought me to this terrible situation. He is not guilty. Just the circumstances..." (Ulitskaya. *The Women in Russian Villages*). The fear of loneliness and the drive for love exist in the life of each woman. For instance: "Although, how does he come into the picture? It is just the fear of loneliness and the drive for love. It was the matter. The fear and the drive" (Tokareva. *Anton, Put on the Shoes!*). The text of female prose is a dynamic verbal object, generated by the individual consciousness of the woman-author and fixing the specificity of the female linguistic world view. It is characterized a functionally reflected sequence of speech actions, each of which implements the relation of the woman-author to the item values of the literary text. Alongside with that, it shall be confessed that there is a dichotomy, reflecting "old" orientations on woman's behavior in family, love, society (Al-Batini & Wells, 1987 [1]) and "new" realities, where the woman is the same equal and equipollent partner, as a man. Thus, the female literary text is a vivid and adequate mean to translate the conceptual worldview of the woman, who has an individual character, fixes and analyzes the notional, emotional, associative cultural content of worldview objects.

#### V. CONCLUSION

The linguistic consciousness of the woman, the author of the literary text, is unmatched and unique, that is reflected on the level of text, discursive model of its presentation. The woman herself finds the reason of her sufferings, inner feelings. She has another higher status in the society, than the man. "She has the experience, inaccessible to the man: pregnancy. The woman



is put by nature on the edge of entwinement and periodical alternation of birth and death, and this inner connection through the organism with the natural, elemental, determines the woman's consciousness in whole" (Dark, 1991 [7]). From this follows that the natural predetermination of the woman "cuts from culture and culture creation". For instance: "It is not for nothing, that in the Biblical legend, the woman chose the fruit of knowledge, who pays, that one chooses. Who chooses, the one cries. She is the one, who gives birth, and pays for upright posture and great brain. For being equal to Gods—pain in labor" (Sukhanova). A concept "man", being one of the basic categories in the investigation of individual-author linguistic worldview of the female prose, conveys the author's interpretation of common cultural notions. Lexical means of the "man" concept explication, revealed in the course of analysis of lexical organization of text fragments, representing this implementation of the dominant topic, can be presented in the view of several text lexical unifications, lexico-semantic groups: "Image", "Gender role", "Ideal", "Anti-ideal".

The investigation provides us with the presentation about the woman-writer's world view the result of interaction of woman's personality value system, outlook with her life values, goals, behavioral motives, orientations, presented, especially, in the produced texts. Alongside with that, the female prose defines the evolution of stereotypes in society relatively sexual, matrimonial and reproductive behavior of the woman in a vivid manner. Accentuation on basic concepts of modern woman's inner world speaks about those changes that took place in the woman's life from full subordination to the man to the appearance of proper imaginative nature in the society. The pieces of female fiction are studied "as a field of gender stereotypes functioning in which the notions of masculinity and femininity, accepted in the society, gender roles.

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