

THE VALUE OF SOFIA DENYSENKO'S DOCUMENTARY STORY "SHADOWS OF UNFORGOTTEN ANCESTORS" IN RELATION TO THE PRESENT TIMES

ЦІННІСТЬ ДОКУМЕНТАЛЬНО-ПУБЛІЦИСТИЧНОЇ ПОВІСТІ СОФІЇ ДЕНИСЕНКО «ТІНІ НЕЗАБУТИХ ПРЕДКІВ» ЩОДО СЬОГОДЕННЯ

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The article analyzes the influence of Sofia Denysenko's story "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" on modern Ukrainian society. We consider the story as an important documentary source that reflects the history of Ukraine through the prism of the author's personal experiences and helps to better understand the country's past and present. The article examines the use of literary techniques in the story, its relevance in the modern context and prospects for further research. The key moments of the work, its influence on the formation of collective memory and national self-awareness are analyzed. The article also points to the importance of the story as a resource for understanding the historical, cultural and social challenges faced by Ukrainian society. Key aspects of the structure and language design of the story are highlighted, which contribute to a deep sense of historical reality and an emotional connection with the characters. In particular, the article analyzes the influence of the detailing of images, the use of symbols and metaphors on the perception of the work by readers. Attention is also paid to the individual experiences of the characters and their interaction with historical events, which makes the story close and accessible for understanding and assimilation.

In general, the story "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" is an important documentary source that reflects the history of Ukraine through the lens of the author's personal experiences. This work not only reveals the depths of history to readers, but also actualizes it in the context of modern realities, helping us better understand our past and present. The value of this work to modern society is that it helps us better understand our past and its impact on our present. Through his works, Denisenko helps us better understand how history shapes our present and can influence our future.

Therefore, "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" is an important work that continues to influence the modern literary field and society as a whole. It is a work that deserves deep study and analysis, and which continues to be relevant and important to contemporary society.

We see the prospect of further research in a deeper study of the influence of the historical events described in the story on the formation of the modern Ukrainian identity and political landscape. It is also important to analyze the reaction of modern society to the events of the past, which will help to understand the dynamics of collective memory and national self-awareness. Additional research may include the interpretation of various aspects of cultural heritage, the reproduction of traditions and rituals, as well as the study of the influence of historical narratives on the formation of the mentality of a modern Ukrainian.

Key words: national identity, documentary prose, modern realities, society, historical context.

Стаття аналізує вплив повісті «Тіні незабутих предків» Софії Денисенко на сучасне українське суспільство. Повість розглядається як важливе документальне джерело, яке відображає історію України через призму особистих досвідів авторки та допомагає краще зрозуміти минуле та сучасність країни. Стаття досліджує використання літературних прийомів у повісті, її актуальність у сучасному контексті та перспективи подальших досліджень. Аналізуються ключові моменти твору, його вплив на формування колективної пам'яті та національного самосвідомлення. Стаття також вказує на значення повісті як ресурсу для розуміння історичних, культурних та соціальних викликів, з якими стикається українське суспільство. Висвітлюються ключові аспекти структури та мовного оформлення повісті, які сприяють глибокому відчуттю історичної реальності та емоційному зв'язку з персонажами. Зокрема, стаття аналізує вплив деталізації образів, використання символів та метафор на сприйняття твору читачами. Надається увага також індивідуальним досвідам персонажів і їхній взаємодії з історичними подіями, що робить повість близькою та доступною для розуміння й асиміляції.

Загалом, повість «Тіні незабутих предків» є важливим документальним джерелом, яке відображає історію України через призму особистих досвідів авторки. Цей твір не лише відкриває читачам глибини історії, але й актуалізує

її в контексті сучасних реалій, допомагаючи нам краще розуміти наше минуле та сучасність. Цінність цього твору для сучасного суспільства полягає в тому, що воно допомагає нам краще розуміти наше минуле та його вплив на наше сьогодення. Своєю Повістю Денисенко допомагає нам краще розуміти, як історія формує наше сьогодення та може впливати на наше майбутнє.

Отже, «Тіні незабутих предків» є важливим твором, яке продовжує впливати на сучасне літературне поле та суспільство в цілому. Це твір, який заслуговує на глибоке вивчення та аналіз, і яке продовжує бути актуальним і важливим для сучасного суспільства.

Перспективу подальших досліджень ми вбачаємо у глибшому вивченні впливу історичних подій, які описані в повісті, на формування сучасної української ідентичності та політичного ландшафту. Також важливим є аналіз реакції сучасного суспільства на події минулого, що допоможе зрозуміти динаміку колективної пам'яті та національного самосвідомлення. Додаткові дослідження можуть охоплювати інтерпретацію різних аспектів культурної спадщини, відтворення традицій та обрядів, а також дослідження впливу історичних наративів на формування менталітету сучасного українця.

Ключові слова: національна ідентичність, документальна проза, сучасні реалії, суспільство, історичний контекст.

Introduction. Sofia Denysenko's non-fiction novel "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" is extremely relevant in the context of modern events. This book highlights the historical events and tragedies associated with the repression and genocide of the Ukrainian people, including the destruction of the intelligentsia and the silencing of national identity. It reminds of the importance of memory and awareness of history for the formation of national consciousness and the preservation of cultural heritage. In the conditions of today's aggression from Russia, this work resonates with the painful reality of Ukrainians, who are once again faced with violence, losses and attempts to destroy their independence and national identity.

The parallel between the themes raised in Sofia Denysenko's story and Russia's modern aggression against Ukraine is obvious. The historical events described in the book reflect Russia's systematic policy of subjugation and assimilation of the Ukrainian people. Today we see the continuation of this policy in a new form: through military aggression, annexation of territories, propaganda and attempts to destroy Ukrainian culture and language. Tragic pages of history, such as the Holodomor and repression against the Ukrainian intelligentsia, find their analogies in modern shelling of peaceful cities and information warfare.

The non-fiction novel by Sofia Denysenko is not only a reminder of the past, but also a warning for the present. It emphasizes the importance of national memory and identity as key factors in the struggle for freedom and independence. In light of the current situation, the book calls for unity, stability and the preservation of cultural and spiritual values that are vital for a nation that is once again forced to defend its right to exist.

Therefore, the importance of our research lies in the in-depth analysis of historical events and their reflection in the modern context, which allows us to better understand the nature of aggression and ways to counter it. Sofia Denysenko's non-fiction novel "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" provides

valuable material for studying the impact of historical trauma on national consciousness and resilience. Through parallels with Russia's modern aggression against Ukraine, the study helps to reveal the repeatability of historical scenarios and the importance of historical memory in the context of national identity and sovereignty.

Our research contributes to raising awareness of the mechanisms that were used and are being used to subjugate and destroy the Ukrainian nation. This, in turn, helps to develop strategies for countering modern informational and military aggression. By analyzing historical facts and their impact on the present, we can better understand the motivations and methods of the aggressor, which is key to formulating an effective national defense policy and strategy.

Thus, the research is an important contribution to the preservation of national memory, raising the level of national consciousness and forming civic resilience in the face of today's challenges. It also helps the international community to better understand the Ukrainian context and support Ukraine in its struggle for independence and territorial integrity.

The analysis of the latest researches and publications. The analysis of the latest researches and publications shows the significant attention of scientists to the issue of national self-identification. M. Grebenyuk, V. Lychkovakh, I. Pavlyuk, S. Papeta and others are actively engaged in this issue. Studies of the factors of ethnic preservation and identity formation are presented in the works of N. Averyanova, O. Andreyeva, and T. Voropayeva. Ya. Hrytsak, M. Kozlovets, L. Nagorna, V. Serhiychuk, V. Piskun, M. Popovych, Yu. Polishchuk and others stand out among researchers who highlight the creative work of the author of the story. In particular, the work of S. Denysenko is considered in the works of Yu. Romanenkova and S. Streltsova. However, despite the active research of individual aspects of S. Denysenko's work, today there is a lack of a comprehensive chronicle that would highlight all aspects

of her activity. This makes our study unique, as it seeks to fill this gap and provide a comprehensive overview of Sofia Denysenko's contribution to the formation of national identity and cultural heritage.

So, our publication is devoted to the analysis of the value of the documentary-journalistic novel by Sofia Denysenko "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" in the context of modern society. Sofia Denysenko, academician, professor, doctor of philological sciences, was an extraordinary person in the scientific world, who would have turned 100 years old on March 13, 2025. Her life path and scientific activity are important for understanding the history of Ukraine, and her works continue to influence the modern literary field.

The purpose of our publication is the theoretical consideration and analysis of the documentary-journalistic novel by Sofia Denysenko "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors" as an important source for understanding the historical traumas of the Ukrainian people and their impact on modern Ukrainian identity. We seek to explore how the historical events depicted in this story correlate with Russia's modern aggression against Ukraine and how these parallels can contribute to the development of strategies for strengthening national consciousness and resistance to external threats.

To achieve our goal, we used a complex of theoretical research methods, namely:

1. *Historical and literary method.* Analysis of the historical context: the study of historical events described in Sofia Denysenko's story "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" in order to understand their impact on modern Ukrainian identity.

2. *Literary analysis.* Analysis of the text of the story from the point of view of themes, stylistics, images and symbols that reveal the historical traumas of the Ukrainian people.

3. *Comparative method.* Comparison of historical and modern events: Studying the parallels between the repression and genocide of the past described in the story and Russia's modern aggression against Ukraine. Analysis of recurring historical scenarios: identifying patterns and mechanisms used to subjugate and destroy the Ukrainian nation.

4. *A systematic approach.* Studying the influence of historical traumas on modernity: Analysis of how the historical events depicted in the story affect modern Ukrainian consciousness and identity. Analysis of the role of non-fiction: a study of how non-fiction contributes to the preservation of national memory and the formation of society's resilience to external threats.

5. *Method of content analysis.* Analysis of texts and documents: Studying the text of the story "Shadows

of Unforgotten Ancestors", as well as other literary and historical sources, for a deeper understanding of the described events and their context.

6. *Interpretive method.* Interpretation of symbols and images. The study of symbolism and metaphorical language used in the story to reveal the deep meaning of historical events and their impact on the present.

7. *Method of socio-cultural analysis.* Study of cultural influence: study of the influence of historical events described in the story on modern Ukrainian culture, language and national identity.

It should be noted that the methods defined by us made it possible to compare different views on the investigated problem.

Discussion and Results. Sofia Denysenko was an academician of the Academy of Sciences of Higher Education and was recognized as an excellent teacher, a member of specialized and expert councils, as well as editorial boards of scientific journals. In 1999, she was recognized as "Woman of the Year", and in 2000, she was honored in the nomination of the American Bibliographic Institute "Who's Who". For her contribution to science, Sofya Denysenko was awarded the medal of Yaroslav the Wise, the badge of Sofya Rusova, and the Order of Princess Olga III degree [1]. She is the author of more than 450 scientific and journalistic works focused on phraseology, terminology, methods of teaching foreign languages, translation studies and general linguistics. Professor Denysenko also managed the scientific research of students, postgraduates and doctoral students, advised the authors of dissertations and acted as an opponent in defense of their works [2].

Sofia Denysenko impressed society with her non-fiction novel "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" (2002, 2005), which tells about the tragic events in her native Poltava region during the Holodomor of 1932–1933. She managed to reproduce the terrible realities of the disaster at that time, when the Ukrainian village was affected by the repressive measures of the Soviet government especially collectivization. This work became the basis for the creation of the documentary film "Ashes of Our Hearts" (Galichyna-Film, 1996) [2].

The author conveyed the atmosphere of that time through the prism of her own family, which almost completely suffered terrible losses. She documented how the authorities deprived Ukraine of hard-working farmers, destroyed the nation's gene pool and used the most brutal methods of influencing the population. While researching the topic of the Holodomor, Sofia Denisenko joined the scientific expedition "Places of the Holodomor" in 2003, for which she

was awarded state awards. During the period from 1976 to 2003, Sofia Denysenko worked as a professor of the Department of Foreign Languages at the Lviv Forestry University, and from 2003 she continued her career as a professor of the Department of Foreign Languages for the Faculty of Science at the Ivan Franko Lviv National University [3]. In the memories of her colleagues, Sofia Denysenko will remain in the best light: as a person who survived difficult times, as a great optimist, a talented teacher, an insightful researcher and an active participant in scientific life. She was an active member of the editorial board of the university's scientific journal "Problems of Ukrainian Terminology", where she shared her knowledge and research.

The story "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" is an important documentary source that reflects the history of Ukraine through the prism of the author's personal experiences. This work not only reveals the depths of history to readers, but also actualizes it in the context of modern realities, helping us to better understand our past and present. Sofia Denysenko was not only an outstanding scientist, but also an extremely talented person [4]. Her deep intellect, devotion to science, and love of literature were reflected in everything she did. She was known for her ability to see the world through the lens of words, using her literary and scientific knowledge to penetrate the depths of human experience.

"Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" is evidence of her deep understanding of the history and culture of Ukraine. This work reflects her ability to use literature as a means of highlighting important historical events and their impact on modern society. Sofia Denysenko's documentary novel, which paints a picturesque picture of the destruction of the spiritual heart of our nation into the remoteness of rural life, will inevitably cause a storm of feelings and impressions in readers. It will melt the clot of pain in hearts, provoke sympathy for the victims of ruthless and cruel repressions [6]. Readers will be fascinated by the unsurpassed diligence of the Ukrainian peasant-owner and will discover for themselves the beauty of peasant life, which fills life with joy and hope. They will experience a deep immersion in the world of differences, they will feel hatred for the growing threat from the foreigners-Bolsheviks and their cronies, who were unable even to use the looted goods.

The crystal-truth story about the life of four Cossack families – the Vodyaniks, the Zhilys, the Simonchuks, the Radyoks, and their efforts in creating a blooming garden in the villages of Myrhorod region, Zinkiv region, Shishack region, merges into one of the testimonies of Barka, Manyak, Besanson,

Muggeridge and many others [7]. This story becomes unique in its ability to turn historical facts into living pictures that touch the hearts of readers and leave an indescribable impression. Its uniqueness lies in its ability to deepen the understanding of the tragic events experienced by the ancestors and to give a voice to those who witnessed the communist apocalypse.

Sofia Denysenko's story impresses not only with its truthfulness and emotional richness, but also with its uniqueness in the way of reproducing historical events and life destinies of people. Its importance lies not only in the fact that it tells about the past, but also in the fact that it awakens important reflections in the readers about the present and the future [8]. The story becomes a kind of window into the past. It helps to restore and feel the suffering that our ancestors experienced, and at the same time it makes us think about what values we stand for today and what we really are. Filled with a variety of feelings and emotions, this novel raises important questions about national identity, self-discovery and the place of man in history. It not only tells about the past, but also provides a basis for understanding our modern life, our actions and relationships. So, Sofia Denysenko's story is not just a literary work, but a true masterpiece that leaves a deep mark in the hearts of readers and reminds us of the importance of preserving national memory and historical truth.

Continuing, Sofia Denysenko's story becomes not only a literary work, but also a journey through time, which helps us better understand the essence and meaning of the events of the past. It reveals to us the destinies of ordinary people, their efforts and sacrifices they made in the struggle for their rights and dignity. Such a novel, like other similar works, has a powerful educational potential. She teaches us to appreciate what we have and to remember the difficulties that our ancestors went through. It reminds us that history is not just a collection of facts and dates, but a living fabric that shapes our consciousness and identity. In addition, the novel encourages reflection on the present and the future. It raises questions about our values, actions and responsibility to future generations. Reading it, we ask ourselves what we are today and what we want to be tomorrow.

So, Sofia Denysenko's story is a literary work and a source of wisdom and thoughtful thoughts. It leaves behind a mark that helps us expand our worldview and grow as individuals.

The story of Sofya Denysenko opens before us a wide panorama of the life of the Ukrainian village, with its joys and tragedies, touching scenes of the daily struggle for existence. Through the images of the characters, the story comes alive before the reader's

eyes, inspiring reflection on the true values and importance of cultural heritage. Plunging into the world of actors, we experience with them their small joys and great sorrows. The story becomes not only a source of historical knowledge, but also a reminder of the importance of memory and gratitude to past generations.

Sofia Denysenko's non-fiction novel "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" has great value for modern society. This is an important historical document that outlines the entire panorama of the methodical destruction of the heart of the Ukrainian nation – the village. This book evokes a whole range of various feelings and sensations: a clot of pain in the heart, sympathy for the victims of cynical, cruel repressions, admiration for the exceptional diligence of the Ukrainian peasant-master, the beauty of everyday life [9]. It helps us understand the history of our people, study our roots and understand what trials our ancestors went through. It helps us better understand the modern challenges and problems we face today.

The war that is tormenting Ukraine has a deep impact on society. It reveals our traumas and weaknesses, but at the same time strengthens the trust, compassion, interaction and spiritual aspirations of our society. The war is rapidly changing Ukrainian society, which is in a situation of constant rocket and bomb attacks, fighting in cities and active migration from the cities and towns most affected by the Russian aggressor. These events cause changes in Ukrainian society. In particular, public confidence that the country is moving in the right direction is growing. The war also brought the country together on fundamental issues.

Thus, Sofia Denysenko's "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" can help us better understand our history, our roots, and the trials our ancestors went through. It can help us better understand the modern challenges and problems we face today, including war. It can help us to understand how we can cope with these challenges and changes that occur in our society due to war.

"Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" by Sofia Denysenko is not just a historical document, but also an important resource for understanding the current state of Ukraine. It helps us understand how the past affects our present and how we can use those lessons to build a better future. This book reminds us of the importance of remembering our past, our ancestors, their struggles and sacrifices. It reminds us that we are part of a larger story and that our actions today affect our future. In the context of the modern war in Ukraine, *Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors* reminds us of the importance of unity, mutual aid and faith in a better future. They remind us that despite all the

trials, we can endure and survive if we stick to our values and believe in ourselves.

Thus, "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" is an important resource for everyone who wants to better understand modern Ukraine and its history. It helps us understand our roots, our history and our trials, and it inspires us to fight for independence and statehood.

The story "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" by Sofia Denysenko is an important documentary source that reflects the history of Ukraine through the prism of the author's personal experiences. This work not only reveals the depths of history to readers, but also actualizes it in the context of modern realities, helping us to better understand our past and present. In the story "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors", the author skillfully uses literary techniques to create a vivid, multifaceted image of the past. Her use of details, symbols, and metaphors help readers feel the depth and complexity of the story she tells. One of the key points of the story is its focus on individual experiences. Sofia Denysenko does not just tell the history of Ukraine, she tells the story through the experiences of individual people. This helps readers feel close to the events she describes and understand how they affect the lives of real people. An important element of the story is its use of language. Denysenko uses language as a tool to create a multifaceted image of the past. Her use of dialect, slang, and historical terms helps create an atmosphere that reflects the time and place she writes about. It not only reveals the depths of the past to readers, but also actualizes this history in the context of modern realities, helping to better understand the connection between the past and the present. Presentation of historical events through the prism of the personal destinies of the heroes allows you to feel their closeness and realism, making history more accessible and receptive. The author successfully uses literary devices such as details, symbols, and metaphors to create a vivid, multifaceted picture of the past that captures the imagination of readers. An important aspect of this work is its focus on individual experiences, which makes history more the stories of specific people than a cold list of events. The story acts not only as a historical document, but also as an important resource for understanding the current state of Ukraine. It helps to better understand the influence of the past on the present and to ask questions about the future. "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" leave a deep mark in the hearts of readers and remain relevant and important for modern society.

Conclusions. In the form of a literary work, "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" act not only as memories of the past, but also as an important docu-

mentary source that invites readers on a journey into the depths of history. This work helps not only to reveal the tragic events of the past, but also to understand how they affect the formation of our modern world. Thanks to the focus on the individual experiences and life stories of the characters, readers get the opportunity to feel and perceive history personally, which makes "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" not only a source of knowledge, but also a source of emotional connection with the past.

This novel not only reveals to us the depths of the past, but also encourages thinking about the present and the future. It helps readers to better understand the meaning of national identity, self-knowledge and a person's place in history. In addition, through the prism of modern realities, the novel raises questions about our values, actions and responsibility to future generations.

Therefore, Sofia Denysenko's "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" remains an important resource for anyone interested in the history of Ukraine and wants to better understand our common heritage. This work is not just a documentary narrative, but an invitation to inner discovery and reflection, making us more enlightened, aware and coherent about our history and present.

The living fabric of the past is revealed on the pages of the story, which becomes a platform for understanding the complex elements of modern society. Through the destinies of the heroes, the

author draws our attention to the priority aspects of Ukrainian identity and national memory. An important component of this story is its ability to combine the past with the present, creating a city between eras. The story reminds us that our past is not just a list of events, but a complex mosaic that shapes our collective consciousness and defines our identity. Its value lies in its ability to make us reflect on who we are today and who we want to become tomorrow. It is a reminder of the importance of preserving national memory and historical truth. Thus, "Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors" becomes not just a book, but also a guide to the world of the past, which affects our modern life and determines our future.

We see the prospect of further research in a deeper study of the influence of the historical events described in the story on the formation of the modern Ukrainian identity and political landscape. It is also important to analyze the reaction of modern society to the events of the past, which will help to understand the dynamics of collective memory and national self-awareness. Additional research may include the interpretation of various aspects of cultural heritage, the reproduction of traditions and rituals, as well as the study of the influence of historical narratives on the formation of the mentality of a modern Ukrainian. Such studies will help not only to better understand the past, but also to reveal opportunities for building a future based on national identity and cultural heritage.

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