

THE CATEGORY OF LOCALITY IN THE CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN FICTION

The category locality is considered to be one of literary text categories. However, many scholars regard locality and temporality subcategories of a more general category – chronotype [1, p. 78]. Locality, the description of setting, is often associated with time and memory of time.

In a very poetical short story "Bullhead" by Leigh Wilson (2004) the main character, a married woman, every year goes to one place in the lake and drops a coin. This lake drowned her hometown during the construction of the dam. Right on this place was the house where she and the love of her life, the boy next door, made love. The boy went away with her family but the woman still remembers and goes to this place during 50 years. The author's conclusion at the end, in the strong position, makes this story a kind of modern parable: *Love and the memory of love can't be drowned*.

Opposite to this, man's perception of place and time in a number of literary texts is associated with some memorable event or some outstanding person. One of the new novels by Stephen King "11.22.63", published in 2011, describes the time travel of the main character to the past, to the year of 1958, through the portal, "the rabbit hole". Jake Epping finds himself in a small American town where he will live and try to save the life of President John Kennedy in Dallas. Thus, the bitter memory of this event, of that place and time is still haunting many Americans.

One of the remarkable short stories "Forever and the Earth" by Ray Bradbury is also connected with the travel to the past and the memory of the outstanding writer Thomas Wolfe. He is returned to life so that he could write a masterpiece about the beauty of space, of other planets as no living man of letters in the year 2257 can't do it so wonderfully. However, Wolfe has very little time for a new creative life. Bradbury shows the tragic collision between talent and the life span of human being.

David Galef in his ironic short story "My Date with Neanderthal Woman" (2003) does not describe in detail the travel to the distant past and the place - the cave. The knowledge of the prehistoric times makes the main character hesitate - what gift is suitable for his date: flowers, beefsteak or chocolate. Still, the underlying pragmatic idea is very humanistic. Despite the differences, people can like, respect and love each other.

While one of the conventional concepts of time is associated with a moving object (G. Lacoff, M. Johnson), in the analyzed texts as well as in some other stories time is described through space, and the memory of time is associated with locality. The gender aspect of these concepts reveals the connection with emotions and feelings (women writers and characters) or the memory of great events and great people.

In one of the recent flash fiction stories "Bigfoot Love" (2022) by Gary Every the main character finds his love in the forest, Bertha Bigfoot lives on a tree, and finally the main character and Bertha stay "*atop of the tallest tree in the forest every other day, sitting inside the biggest nest you have ever seen, his butt warming a clutch of bigfoot eggs*" [2, p. 12].

REFERENCES

1. Кухаренко В.А. Інтерпретація тексту: навч. посібник. Вінниця: НОВА КНИГА, 2004, 272с.
2. Every G. Bigfoot Love. Flash Fiction Magazine Weekly. 10.08.2022. P.9-12.