

Abstract

The presented diploma thesis named "Formation of Israeli National Identity in Poems of Nathan Alterman" aims to present its reader from an interdisciplinary perspective of scientific discipline of Anthropology of Literature, way by which was the poetic text used in the process of forming of the Israeli National Identity. That is demonstrated on the chosen case study of two poems of Nathan Alterman (1910-1970): *Silver Plate* and *About This*. Alterman, one of the most known poets of Israeli War of Independence, published these poems in his regular newspaper platform *Seventh Column* in leading left oriented journal *Davar*. First of the poems was written still in the pre-state period in the year 1947 and expressed a severe critics to a Zionistic perception of the expected war which was about to burst out with the upcoming end of the British Mandate on Palestine and division of the territory into an Arabic and Jewish state. Second poem was published almost exactly a year after the first one and criticizes war behaviour of the Israeli army to local Arab inhabitants. Both these poems foreshadowed Alterman's way of his relation to the ruling establishment and not only him but of all his generation of authors, which with their literary texts expressed criticism towards the state apparatus, but legitimized it at the same time.

The presented text is divided into six chapters. After Introduction comes chapter devoted to discussion about Anthropological Perspective on Identity as particular anthropological schools sees it and the way it can be built with literary instruments. Finally, the way of forming of the Israeli National Identity and the special role that Hebrew poetry played in this particular process are discussed. The third chapter introduces the chosen methodological approach, which is based on the apparatus of the scientific discipline of Anthropology of Literature. Next chapters are devoted to the chosen case study which is demonstrating the discussed theoretical background on an example of two poems written by Israeli National Poet Nathan Alterman. The presented poems are without precedent not only by their content but also by the surroundings in which they were written and their following perception in the period of the forming of the new National Identity in the Israeli State.