

Abstract

This thesis aims at describing motives of Israeli national identity, as shown in lyrics of Israeli lyricist and composer No'omi Shemer (1930–2004) in her songs written until 1967. The first chapter presents history of Hebrew ideological songs from the end of 19th century to 1960's. The second chapter examines biographical events and political events of No'omi Shemer that are relevant for understanding of her writings. Next, methods and analyses of Shemer's lyrics by Michael Gadish, which to certain extent influenced this thesis, are explained. In this chapter, the relationship between No'omi Shemer's writings and Israeli national identity of her time is also shown. The last chapter focuses on the most prevalent motives of Shemer's lyrics, namely, the Biblical motives, the motive of a soldier and the motive of building. Each motive is presented in a subchapter, which demonstrates how Shemer dealt with them.

The thesis contains visual attachments as evidence of the said motives being relevant to Israeli culture of Shemer's time. In the conclusion, the thesis seeks to examine reasons for the said motives being prominent in Israeli culture and national identity of the period.