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National identity in Ukrainian literature

Abstract. The relevance of this study is conditioned by the need for a scientific understanding of the evolution of national identity in the circumstances of war, globalisation and rethinking of value orientations in Ukrainian society. This research aimed to carry out a deepened theoretical comprehension of the concept of national identity and to distinguish the cultural characteristics of its formation in contemporary Ukraine. The influence of information globalisation and current social challenges, in particular the war, on the transformation of the national self-identification process was shown. It also examines academic approaches to interpreting the concept of national identity and determines its role in the processes of Ukrainian state-building, the consolidation of sovereignty, and the formation of a political nation. The importance of social and cultural determinants in the formation of a person's civic identity was emphasised. A key element of the research was the analysis of the literary works of Ukrainian literature, in which various models of interpreting national identity are represented. The analysis of the novel "The City" by Valerian Pidmohylnyi clarified the author's idea of the inner contradiction between the traditional national values of the individual and the realities of the urban environment. The analysis of journalistic and literary works by Mykola Khvylovyi clarified the problem of Ukraine's cultural choice, the overcoming of colonial complex, which was highlighted by the writer. It was found that the novel "The Hunters and the Hunted" by Ivan Bahrianyi embodies the idea of the indestructibility of the national spirit, the striving for freedom in the conditions of totalitarian pressure. In the poetry of Vasyl Stus, in the works of Lina Kostenko, national identity was manifested as a moral responsibility, spiritual resistance and loyalty to the cultural tradition. Thus, literary fiction has become an essential cultural mechanism for interpreting the historical experience and forming the national consciousness in the context of current social challenges. The practical significance of the research is in the possibility of using its results in the development of state humanitarian policy, improving educational standards, creating programs of civic education and information security, which are directed to strengthening national resistance and social consolidation

Keywords: civic identity; political nation; state-building; informational globalisation; national self identification

INTRODUCTION

The problem of Ukrainian identity at the beginning of the 21st century is actualised against the backdrop of socio-political changes, the European integration processes, and the intensification of globalisation processes. The issues of national self-identification are actively discussed in the scientific and public spheres. Yu. Polishchuk (2024) writes that Ukrainian identity should be a harmonious synthesis of cultural tradition and openness to the world, without closing itself off from the world and without losing

national identity in the context of globalisation. The author also notes that in the conditions of the Russian-Ukrainian war, national and civic identity in Ukraine are undergoing changes, which are manifested in new practices of self-awareness, solidarity and consolidation of society. The challenges of war and hybrid threats that have arisen determine the new dimensions of identity, in particular, civic identity. A similar view is expressed by A. Vitov & H. Tymofieieva (2025). The scientists state that collective

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memory in Ukraine is not monolithic, but polyphonic and multi-dimensional, which lays the groundwork for post-modern identity, marked by a clash of historical interpretations and socio-cultural practices. Scientists point to the discursive nature of Ukrainian identity. A great contribution to the social comprehension of Ukrainian identity was made by a representative of the contemporary cultural field, O. Kirdan (2024), who emphasises that the formation of Ukrainian national and civic identity in students has become a complex, multifactorial process, which is influenced by educational, socio-cultural, and political practices, as well as the media and public discourse. In scientific literature, national identity is defined as an integrating socio-cultural construction that unites historical memory, language, culture, value system, traditions and an individual's consciousness of their belonging to a certain national community. National identity is formed in the process of socialisation and determines a person's worldview, civic stance, behavioural guidelines, and readiness for social and professional self-realisation. M. Kolinko & P. Fedorchenko (2025) interpret national identity in the context of cultural and historical narratives, stating that national identity is constructed in the interpretation of the past and the representation of historical events in the public sphere. According to the scientists, historical narratives perform an integrating function, because they structure the community's idea of its origin, common values and development prospects. It is also emphasised that in the context of war and transformational changes in society, the role of cultural memory as a consolidation mechanism increases, and the interpretation of history becomes an important tool for forming civic solidarity.

V. Zaichko (2024) has significantly contributed to the theory of national identity. In the conditions of globalisation, according to the researcher, Ukrainian national identity was subjected to double pressure, both from globalisation and from the war. This situation strengthened the importance of language, traditions, and cultural heritage as an integral part of national identity. The scientist associates the formation of national identity with the processes of industrialisation and expansion of mass education, with its functional purpose, to ensure social integration and training of the individual for life in the current socio-economic system. At the same time, vocational education as a social institution that combines the educational and production spheres plays an important role in the formation of youth identity through labour, professional culture, and social responsibility. Another point of view is presented by G. Yarotska (2024). The scientist notes that linguistic identity is organically linked to the national selfawareness of Ukraine, and bilingualism is not an obstacle, but a complex mechanism for the construction of individual and collective identity. The scientist emphasises the ethnocultural basis of the nation, the importance of historical heritage, myths, traditions, and symbols for the formation of a stable national identity. Contemporary national identity research in the cultural studies context

highlights its multifaceted and dynamic character. Special attention is paid to the processes of social consolidation, which were aggravated by socio-political factors, first of all the war, and which led to the strengthening of patriotism and revision of national belonging. Thus, national identity is represented as the result of targeted educational and formative impact. The researchers stressed the importance of the educational environment, the content of the curriculum, and the combination of civic education and national-patriotic education in the formation of youth identity. Cultural and social institutions play a special role in the formation of national identity, since they combine traditions, symbolic practices, historical memory and current social influences. National identity is formed naturally through the integration of ethnic, civic and cultural components, which contribute to the formation of awareness of common values, historical heritage and cultural norms. These cultural processes lead to the formation of a conscious citizen who is able to critically perceive social events, appreciate cultural heritage, and actively participate in public life.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research is based on the principles of cultural relevance, interdisciplinarity and a systemic approach, which made it possible to carry out a comprehensive analysis of the role and place of Ukrainian literature in the process of constructing and representing national identity. The study was performed within the cultural studies paradigm, taking into account the historical, social, linguistic and symbolic aspects of Ukrainian national consciousness. This approach made it possible to trace the representation of different ethnic, political and cultural aspects of national identity in literary texts, as well as to identify the mechanisms of formation of the perception of national community. The research was carried out in three stages. The first stage consisted of the analysis of academic sources in the field of literary studies and cultural studies, which made it possible to determine the conceptual apparatus of national identity and its representation in literature. The second stage involved the selection and systematisation of literary texts, in which the problems of national identity, historical memory and civic values are raised. The analysis of prose works of the 20th-century writers is carried out: the novel "The City" by Valerian Pidmohylnyi, the pamphlet "Ukraine or Little Russia?" by Mykola Khvylovyi, the novel in verse "Marusia Churai" by Lina Kostenko, the novels "The Riders" and "Master of the Ship" by Yurii Yanovskyi, and the novel "The Hunters and the Hunted" by Ivan Bahrianyi. The poetry collections by V. Stus and Vasyl Symonenko are considered. In addition, the works of such writers as Ivan Franko, Lesia Ukrainka, Oleksandr Dovzhenko, Ivan Drach, Oles Honchar, and Hryhir Tiutiunnyk are briefly reviewed. Among the contemporary authors, the novel "The Ladder" by Yevheniia Kuznetsova is analysed, in which the inner life of the protagonists is shown in the context of national self-identification, and the cultural and historical

processes of contemporary Ukraine are reflected. The novel "There is Land behind Perekop" by Anastasiia Levkova is being studied, which focuses on historical heritage, continuity of generations, and formation of civic consciousness. The works of Yuliia Illiukha, Olena Stiazhkina, Viktoriia Amelina, Ilarion Pavliuk, and Artur Dron are also mentioned. These works are characterised by the integration of the personal and collective aspects of national identity and demonstrate the influence of cultural and historical factors on the self-awareness of literary characters. The third stage is directly related to the analysis and interpretation of the texts with the help of literary methods: textual analysis, hermeneutics, interpretative approach and elements of content analysis, which made it possible to identify the thematic and valuable markers of national identity. The use of the above approaches makes it possible to reveal the ways and mechanisms of reproduction in literary texts of cultural, historical and social factors that influence the formation of Ukrainian national consciousness, as well as the role of literary strategies in constructing a holistic image of national identity.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The problem of Ukrainian national identity has become one of the key, system-forming problems in the national literary process. The 20th and early 21st-century Ukrainian literature is not only a factor of artistic creation, but also a special space for interpreting historical experience, cultural memory, and value orientations of the Ukrainian people. Identity is a complex, multi-dimensional socio-cultural phenomenon that is shaped at the crossroads of historical memory, language and cultural legacy, moral and ethical values, existential choice, and active civil position of the individual. Ukrainian national identity in literary works is not a static, completed phenomenon. It is a process that reflects the contradictions of the historical development, the experience of colonial dependence, the tragic events of the 20th century, the desire for self-assertion and cultural self-sufficiency. In this sense, literature fulfils not only aesthetic, but also worldview-forming, educational and consolidative functions, and contributes to the formation of collective ideas of the national past, the interpretation of the complex present and the creation of a desired future. This is in line with the idea of the nation as an imagined community, according to which cultural texts play a key role in the creation of national meanings, symbols and narratives.

The problem of identity was especially urgent in 20th-century Ukrainian literature, which developed in the context of political repression, censorship and ideological influences. The analysis of classical texts of the period provides grounds to argue that national identity in literary works is often represented through the interpretation of historical traumas, the experience of statelessness, the struggle for freedom and the preservation of cultural identity in the context of assimilation. These motives are traced in the works of Ukrainian modernist writers and

representatives of the Executed Renaissance, where the problem of individual self-identification is inseparable from the crisis of national existence and the loss of a historical perspective. Thus, the image of the protagonist in the novel "The City" by V. Pidmohylnyi (1954) is a complex internal conflict between the traditional idea of national identity and the challenges of the contemporary urban world. Stepan Radchenko is a typical figure of a transitional epoch, whose identity is undergoing continuous transformation under the influence of social and cultural determinants. The pursuit of social well-being, adaptation to urban life, alienation from rural roots, and gradual revaluation of values are evidence of the contradictory processes of self-identification of Ukrainians in the context of deep socio-cultural transformations. In addition, the novel discusses the loss of spiritual guidelines, the destruction of moral principles, and the decline of national consciousness, which also gives the novel a pronounced didactic and educational character.

Similar ideological and artistic motifs can be observed in the prose of Mykola Khvylovyi, in particular in the publicist "Ukraine or Little Russia?", where national identity is perceived through the experience of the revolution, cultural choice and the desire for the spiritual independence of Ukraine (Berezynskyi, 1932). The writer constantly talks about the need to overcome a colonial complex, to choose a European vector of development for Ukrainian culture, and to get out of the imperial paradigm. His creativity represents identity as a field of internal confrontation between imposed ideological patterns and the desire for independent cultural self-determination. Yu. Polishchuk (2024) notes that the ideas of Mykola Khvylovyi constitute an important stage in the formation of contemporary Ukrainian identity and in the development of an intellectual discourse of national self-assertion. A special place in the formation of national identity in Ukrainian literature belongs to the creativity of Ivan Bahrianyi, and in particular to the novel "The Hunters and the Hunted". In this literary work, the character of the protagonist personifies the idea of the indestructibility of the national spirit, the desire for freedom, and the preservation of human dignity in the context of totalitarian violence. National identity is presented in tandem with an active civil stance, readiness for resistance, and responsibility for one's own choice. This contributes to the perception of national identity as an active life position, and not only as cultural heritage or historical memory.

Lina Kostenko's poetry plays a significant role in the interpretation of the problem of national identity, constantly affirming humanistic and nationally oriented values. In the novel in verse "Marusia Churai", national identity is revealed through the character of the artist as the keeper of historical memory, moral authority, and spiritual mouthpiece of the nation. The work emphasises the inseparable connection between individual destiny and the destiny of the people, and highlights the importance of language, song, and cultural tradition as factors of national original-

ity and spiritual continuity (Kostenko, 1979). No less important is the contribution of Vasyl Stus, whose work forms an understanding of national identity as an existential choice, a form of internal resistance. In his poetry, in particular in the poems “Lord, Pure Rage...” and “How Good It Is That I’ve No Fear of Dying...”, identity is perceived as a private moral position, based on freedom, responsibility, and loyalty to national ideals in conditions of repression and persecution. This methodological approach helped to cultivate a sense of the value of dignity, freedom of thought and spiritual independence, values that have become especially relevant in the context of the challenges of current society (Stus, 2025). In the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war, information pressure and identity crises, literature as a factor of national consolidation and spiritual resistance has acquired special significance.

An important object of study of the national idea in Ukrainian literature is the recognition of the literary word as a mechanism of intergenerational transmission of values. The literary text is a special kind of cultural code, where representations of historical continuity, national symbols, collective myths and moral imperatives are encoded. In images of the past, in folklore motifs and historical figures, the writers create a sense of involvement in a single cultural space, which becomes a decisive factor in the formation of national identity. It is very typical that Ukrainian authors focus on the topic of historical memory as the basis of national self-determination (“Marusia Churai” by Lina Kostenko, “Master of the Ship” by Yuriy Yanovskyi). In literature, historical memory is not so much a collection of facts as a value-based experience that determines current guidelines and models of behaviour. The artistic recreation of the past recreates the key events for the nation, creating a sense of historical continuity and responsibility for the future. National identity in the works of Ukrainian writers is also often associated with the problem of language as the primary sign of cultural identity. In the 20th-century literary texts, the Ukrainian language performed not only the function of a means of communication, but also the function of a sign of resistance to the assimilation policy, a repository of national memory and a factor of spiritual unity.

Contemporary Ukrainian prose and poetry are actively rethinking the Soviet past, the experience of postcolonial trauma, globalisation and the information environment. In 21st-century Ukrainian literature, national identity appears as an open, multilayered construct, which combines traditional cultural codes and new forms of self-identification (Yablunovskiy, 2023). The literature of independent Ukraine demonstrates different models of national identity, from heroic-patriotic to critical-reflection. This variety of artistic strategies is important; however, contemporary texts continue the literary tradition as a space for moral dialogue between author and reader. It is interesting to note the gender aspect of the nation in the prose of Ukrainian authors. Women more often become a symbol of preservation and rebirth of the national culture and iden-

tity of the people in the conditions of the historical storm. In the novel “The Ladder” by Ye. Kuznetsova (2023), the plot of which narrates the life of Ukrainians in the conditions of war, the main characters, among whom are women, are in a complex social and cultural situation, but at the same time retain the Ukrainian language and cultural signs of life and identity. The main female characters of the novel become symbols of the mental and cultural endurance of Ukrainians in the context of war. In the process of their communication with the language, cultural codes and experiences, the author shows how language and everyday practices become signs of national identity in everyday practices. The main female characters of the novel *Endling* by M. Reva (2025), Yeva, Nastia and Sol, face the war, stereotypes and international image of Ukraine in the satirical and metafictional context. For them, language and culture become a tool for a critical revision of Ukrainian identity, including gender, global and national aspects.

The consciousness of language as a sign of national identity is observed in both classical and contemporary authors, which is why literature can be considered as an effective means of linguistic and cultural education. For example, in the novel “The Ladder” by Ye. Kuznetsova (2023), the language is not only a tool for communication but a sign of cultural memory: the characters of the novel constantly come back to the Ukrainian language, to the description of their homeland and to communication with other Ukrainians, which strengthens their national identity regardless of their territorial distance from Ukraine. This once again proves that the Ukrainian language remains one of the main signs of cultural otherness even in everyday practices. The same Yu. Iliukha (2024) in *My Women* uses the Ukrainian language to form a multivocal subjectivity of a contemporary woman, which demonstrates how the linguistic practice forms the woman’s identity in the context of war, loss, changing social roles and a sense of national belonging. The Ukrainian language becomes here a tool for understanding the common destiny and cultural roots that help a person to keep their identity in the socio-cultural crisis. O. Stizhkina (2021) in her work *Cecil the Lion Had to Die* also raised the question of language interpretation: though the novel does not directly discuss the language issue, it widely discusses cultural memory, responsibility for the history and construction of national identity through the understanding of the past and the present, which is important for understanding the general cultural context of linguistic identities in the contemporary Ukrainian literature. The role of the linguistic factor in national identity in the context of war is also discussed by authors published in foreign periodicals and literary reviews. Thus, (2025) M. Reva at the level of artistic model revealed the issues of war, trauma, and ethnocultural identity. Although the aforementioned books were not written in Ukrainian or published without a Ukrainian translation, they are also significant in the context of the interpretation of the category of national identity in the contemporary world

literary process in current Ukrainian realities. Table 1 presents a list of some examples of Ukrainian literature

significant for the formation of national identity, with a short characteristic of each of them.

Table 1. Examples of Ukrainian literary works that are significant for the formation of national identity

No.	Title and author	Year	Main features
1	"Moses" by Ivan Franko	1905	The poem has a pronounced nation-building potential and is interpreted as a philosophical treatise on the path of the Ukrainian people towards freedom and state independence. The image of the prophet Moses in the poem symbolises the idea of a spiritual leader of the nation, while the motifs of doubt, betrayal and faith are significant in the context of the problem of national self-identification. The analysis of the poem actualises the understanding of the responsibility of every generation for the fate of the nation
2	"The Forest Song" by Lesia Ukrainka	1911	In the <i>féerie</i> , national identity is represented as a symbolically connected unity of man, nature, language and folk culture. The image of Mavka is an embodiment of spiritual freedom, sincerity and harmony with national traditions. The juxtaposition of nature to utilitarian civilisation contributes to the valorisation of cultural heritage as the basis of national identity
3	"The Riders" by Yurii Yanovskyi (novella "Double Circle")	1935	The problem of national identity in the novel "The Riders" is represented in the context of the tragedy of the civil war and the destruction of family and national ties. The plot of the novella "Double Circle" reveals an ideological split which resulted in the loss of spiritual unity of Ukrainians. The work forms an understanding of national identity as a value which is based on the ideas of unity, historical memory and responsibility for the destiny of the nation
4	"Ukraine in Flames" by Oleksandr Dovzhenko	1943	The cinematic narrative presents the problem of national identity in the context of the tragedy of war, loss and at the same time preservation of the spiritual forces of the nation. The author stresses the importance of historical memory, family values and moral steadiness of Ukrainians in a critical situation, which contribute to the interpretation of national identity as a deeply humanistic category
5	"The Hunters and the Hunted" by Ivan Bahrianyi	1944	The image of Hryhory Mnohohrishny, who in the inhuman conditions of Soviet totalitarianism preserved national dignity, language and cultural memory, is a representation of the problem of national identity. The Sirko family, which symbolises the continuity of the Ukrainian tradition and the idea of inner freedom, is also an essential component of civic and national identity
6	Poetry by Ivan Drach	1964	The image of Ukraine is viewed through the prism of the world outlooks of the present day, in which the national is connected with the modern. The metaphors of language, land, and historical memory form the ability to comprehend the national in the context of contemporary culture
7	Poetry by Vasyl Symonenko	1965	In the poetry of Vasyl Symonenko, the assertion of national identity is realised through the ideas of dignity, freedom, and love for the Motherland. In the poems "Do You Know You Are a Person?" and "I Peer Intently In Your Eyes" the feeling of personal responsibility for the fate of the nation is actualised, and dignity is represented as the basis of national self-consciousness
8	"The Cathedral" by Oles Honchar	1968	In the novel, national identity is represented as the spiritual heritage of the nation, which is incarnated in the image of the cathedral as a sign of historical memory, culture, and moral responsibility of generations. The opposition of spiritual and material values contributes to the comprehension of cultural heritage as a component of national identity
9	"Three Cuckoos with a Bow", "Klymko" by Hryhir Tiutiunnyk	1976	In these novellas, national identity is incarnated in the image of the "common man", in whom the traditional moral values of the Ukrainian people are embodied. The motifs of compassion, humanity, and memory of the war contribute to the humanistic understanding of national identity as the unity of moral principles and historical experience
10	Poetry by Vasyl Stus	1994	In the poetry of Stus, national identity is represented as inner freedom, moral steadiness, and responsibility before one's people. Belonging to Ukraine is emphasised as a spiritual duty, which contributes to the deep understanding of the relation between personal dignity and national self-consciousness

Source: I. Franko (1905), Yu. Yanovskyi (1936), I. Bahrianyi (1946), O. Honchar *et al.* (1966), O. Honchar (1968), L. Ukrainka (1976), H. Tiutiunnyk (2006), I. Drach (2016), V. Symonenko (2017), V. Stus (2025)

Among the contemporary Ukrainian writers of the period of 2021–2026, whose creative works are devoted to the problems of Ukrainian identity, culture, war, memory, and language choice, is V. Amelina (2025) in the book "Looking at Women, Looking at War", in which the author shows the experience of women in the war in Ukraine. In the book, through the mouths of concrete women who live and experience the war, the gender and cultural aspect of national identity is revealed. I. Pavliuk (2020) in the book "I See You Are Interested in Darkness", in which the author raises the questions of solitude, morality, inner world, perception of the surrounding reality, which is

the experience of cultural and identity processes in the current society. A. Dron (2025) in the collection of poems "Hemingway Knows Nothing", in which the author analyses the experience of Ukrainian soldiers (wounding, death, spiritual searching). In the poetical prose, the author creates the literature of war and identity, in which the inner transformations of both the heroes and the society are shown. A. Levkova (2023) in the novel "There is Land behind Perekop", in which the author tells about the life of a heroine in the Crimea and her complicated choice between cultural and linguistic situation, family traditions and her friendship with the Crimean Tatar girlfriend,

which forms the literary map of cultural identity. Consequently, the Ukrainian national identity is considered as a socio-cultural phenomenon, the determinants of which are, first of all, the historical memory, cultural tradition, linguistic and literary codes. This is evidenced by the research of Zh. Denysiyuk (2025), who noted the importance of cultural policy in the consolidation of identity, and N. Levchenko (2025), who revealed the potential of the Shevchenko heritage during the war as the basis of national identity. The analysis of national identity in the aspect of historical and literary narratives was supported by the scientific research of Ya. Polishchuk (2023) revealed how, at the turn of the 19th–20th centuries, European and national currents intertwined, which became the historical background for the contemporary literary model of identity. T. Bevz (2020) proved that social problems, in particular, security and humanitarian crises, strengthen the consciousness of identity not only as a cultural but also a socio-political phenomenon. O. Trukhan (2024) extended the influence of literature on identity by means of the diaspora and educational practices, which showed that literature of Ukrainian identity is beyond the territorial borders. S. Namestiuk *et al.* (2024) specified the role of myth and historical narratives as components of cultural identity in Ukraine, which is important for the literary analysis of contemporary works. The problem of formation of national identity in Ukrainian literature is a reflection of historical, cultural and social processes that have influenced the development of the Ukrainian people. Literary works of different epochs and styles, besides their artistic value, cultivated national consciousness, spiritual unity and cultural heritage. The problem of Ukrainian national identity has already become one of the key issues of the national literary and cultural-historical discourses. O. Semenova & M. Herasko (2020) pointed out that social problems, in particular, security and humanitarian crises, strengthen the consciousness of identity not only as a cultural but also a sociopolitical phenomenon. The scientific research of V. Kroshka (2024) on the transformation of identity in the context of globalisation provided an up-to-date empirical dimension that completed the literary sources. O. Mishalova (2020) specified the role of myth and historical narratives as components of cultural identity in Ukraine, which is important for the literary analysis of contemporary works. A. Homon & I. Biletska (2024) pointed out that in the conditions of the Russian-Ukrainian war the language functioned not only as a means of communication but also as a strategic marker that distinguished Ukraine from the aggressor state and a factor of transformation of national identity, which is proved by an increase of the use of the Ukrainian language, in particular, in the territories affected by the war. The use of interdisciplinary and systemic methods ensured a comprehensive approach, allowing an assessment of both historical context and contemporary challenges, thereby outlining trends in the development of Ukrainian national consciousness and cultural identity.

CONCLUSIONS

The research proved that Ukrainian literature has become one of the main phenomena in the formation and conceptualisation of Ukrainian national identity. The literary works of different periods of time presented national identity as a multifaceted phenomenon, which united the historical past, linguistic and cultural traditions, spiritual and moral values, and civic position. The investigation proved that at the beginning of the 21st century, Ukrainian national identity was a complex, multifaceted socio-cultural phenomenon, which was shaped at the crossroads of historical past, linguistic and cultural traditions, moral and ethical norms, and civic position. Literature was the main tool for the construction and representation of identity. The analysis of 20th-century literary works, particularly “The City” by Valerian Pidmohylnyi and “Ukraine or Little Russia?” by Mykola Khvylovyi, showed that the national identity was represented through an internal conflict of the heroes between the preservation of traditional values and the influence of a new socio-cultural medium. In the novel “The Hunters and the Hunted” by Ivan Bahrianyi and the poetry of Vasyl Stus, identity was connected with an active civic position, with resistance to violence, and affirmation of spiritual values. The poetry of Lina Kostenko and Ivan Drach underlined the importance of historical past, language and culture for the formation of individual and national consciousness. The works by Ivan Bahrianyi, Oles Honchar, Lina Kostenko, and Vasyl Stus represented different models of national identity from individual, existential and moral to civic, historical, and patriotic.

The literature of the 21st century (2021–2026) by Viktoriia Amelina, Yuliia Iliukha, Mariia Reva and Olena Stiazhkina continued the tradition of literature as the arena of moral and cultural dialogue, in which the questions of gender, language, and war were raised in the context of identity. The literary works of the mentioned authors presented identity as a process, which embraced cultural, linguistic and civic self-consciousness and contributed to social consolidation and formation of civic responsibility. Thus, the national identity was not presented as a fixed category, but was shaped under the influence of historical traumas, globalisation challenges, and educational practices. The literature appeared to be an effective instrument of transmission of cultural values, consolidation of the nation and worldview formation of the young generation, especially in the context of current socio-political changes and the Russian-Ukrainian war. The perspectives of further research involve the analysis of other examples of contemporary Ukrainian literature for the profound investigation of national identity and the spiritual steadiness of society.

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Національна ідентичність в українській літературі

Анотація. Актуальність дослідження зумовлена необхідністю наукового осмислення процесів трансформації національної ідентичності в умовах воєнних викликів, глобалізаційних змін та переосмислення ціннісних орієнтирів українського суспільства. Метою статті став поглиблений аналіз теоретичних підходів до визначення національної ідентичності та виявлення культурних особливостей її формування в сучасній Україні. У дослідженні було окреслено вплив інформаційної глобалізації та сучасних суспільних викликів, зокрема війни, на трансформацію процесів національної самоідентифікації. Також, у статті було здійснено аналіз наукових підходів до трактування поняття національної ідентичності та визначено її роль у процесах державотворення України, утвердження суверенітету й формування політичної нації. Підкреслено значення суспільних і культурних чинників у процесі становлення громадянської ідентичності особистості. Важливою частиною дослідження став аналіз художніх творів української літератури, у яких репрезентовано різні моделі осмислення національної ідентичності. У результаті аналізу роману Валер'яна Підмогильного «Місто» було проаналізовано розкриття автором проблеми внутрішнього конфлікту особистості між традиційними національними цінностями та викликами модерного урбаністичного середовища. Під час аналізу публіцистичної та художньої творчості Миколи Хвильового було досліджено порушене письменником питання культурного вибору України та подолання колоніальної свідомості. Було визначено, що роман Івана Багряного «Тигролови» репрезентував ідею незламності національного духу й прагнення до свободи навіть в умовах тоталітарного тиску. У поезії Василя Стуса та творчості Ліни Костенко національна ідентичність постала як моральна відповідальність, духовна стійкість і вірність культурній традиції. Таким чином, художня література постала важливим культурним механізмом осмислення історичного досвіду та формування національної свідомості в умовах сучасних суспільних викликів. Практична цінність дослідження полягає у можливості застосування його результатів у формуванні державної гуманітарної політики, удосконаленні освітніх стандартів, розробленні програм громадянського виховання та інформаційної безпеки, спрямованих на зміцнення національної стійкості та єдності суспільства

Ключові слова: громадянська ідентичність; політична нація; державотворення; інформаційна глобалізація; національна самоідентифікація
