THE MOTIF OF THE LOSS IN TAYEB SALIH’S NOVEL “SEASON OF MIGRATION TO THE NORTH”

Last decades, the number of literary related to the deep analysis of works of literature has significantly increased. It is known that in 2001 the Arabic Literature Academy selected Tayeb Salih’s novel “Season of Migration to the North” as the most important Arabic novel of XX century.

The novel of Arabic writer “Season of Migration to the North” was selected as a subject of research based on the fact that this work combined traditional elements of the author’s worldview and artistic thinking, as well as new elements that led to the creation of a completely different, compared to the previous works, type of novel.

Tayeb Salih is best known as a “political” writer, who in his works explored the conflict between East and West, as well as between the colonizers and the oppressed. But in addition, works of Sudanese writer are known for subtle psychological analysis. A characteristic feature of his artistic personality was a smooth combination of Sudan folklore and African mythology with modern techniques of modernist movements, in particular — the “stream of consciousness”, i.e. the author’s ascent to the philosophy of existentialism.

This work marks the apogee of the postcolonial novel in Arabic prose. The author focuses on the fight between the culture of Europe and the Arab-African countries. At the same time, we can follow an existential problem of man's place in a modern society. In the novel, the author focuses on the conflicts associated with the contradistinction of East and West, men and women, Christians and Muslims, Eros and Thanatos, tradition and modernity, towns and villages.

As an example of postcolonial novel, “Season of Migration to the North” is the story of two overlapping personalities who are trying to find themselves in their own country after a long period of time spent in the Western world. The author demonstrates some adherence to Edward Said’s theory of oriental images or stereotypes, when directly or indirectly criticizing colonialism. Through intertextuality, Tayeib Salih parodies previous European and Arab texts that describe cross-cultural conflicts between Europe on the one hand and Africa and the Arab world on the other hand; he undermines the colonialist views and statements in European texts.

Thereby, the psychological approach of understanding helped to draw the conclusion that it is impossible to evaluate the hybrid nature of all cultures and intercultural experience if not to consider things from the point of view of a hybrid; thus, “Season of Migration to the North” refers to the inevitability of double identity and culture as a result of cross-cultural encounters.