

GRAFFITI AS THE ORIGIN OF THE UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE

Imagine, you are walking through a small town or metropolitan city and some vibrant graffiti catches your eye. What do you think of this urban masterpiece? Some people define graffiti as trashy and unacceptable, however other people find it to be original art which is aesthetically pleasing, influential and inspiring. While graffiti is often seen as vandalism, it can also be seen as a valuable art form as it allows to present personal expression. Moreover, it is hard to believe, but thanks to graffiti the Ukrainian language appeared.

Graffiti is a very long-standing phenomenon and was called one of the first wall painting techniques. Graffiti is encountered by archaeologists in many cultures of different epochs and continents. Later on, archaeologists used it as a generic term for the definition of all kinds of random inscriptions and drawings on the walls of houses. Today this concept has expanded beyond what is meant by any unofficial public texts, including modern ones [3, p. 243].

The walls of the preserved ancient cities were covered with inscriptions. One of the most famous collections of antique graffiti was found during the excavations of Pompeii. The inhabitants of Pompeii, like our contemporaries, wrote about love, sex, politics and expressed their sympathy and discontent.

This phenomenon came to us from Byzantium, along with Christianity. Even before it was a tradition to scratch out inscriptions or drawings on the surfaces such as walls, fences and household objects, which were not intended for this purpose.

Archaeological and written sources confirm that Ukrainian graffiti also has a long history. Hundreds of graffiti from the XI-XIII centuries were found in St. Sophia Cathedral in Kiev as well as in other temples [2, p. 14].

It should be noted that graffiti is a tradition that has been practiced around the whole territory of Ukraine. There are quite a few in Chernihiv, Halych, etc.

These inscriptions are found both in the Cyril Church of the XII century and in the Church of the Savior on Berestovoy. The objects on which people could write, were used not only for letters and chronicles to be written, but also for transferring the knowledge and experience.

The writings of the skilled scribes and the inscriptions on the walls of the ancient cathedrals, in particular St. Sophia's, amazingly coincide. In fact, it makes sense to say that these inscriptions are the reflection of the oldest period of Russian and Ukrainian languages. Graffiti really shows the value of our old language and considerably influences the development of the modern Ukrainian language.

So, the point is, whether graffiti reflects something or not. Is graffiti an act of vandalism or art? And does it help express one's world outlook or philosophy? We can safely say that this is a long-standing tradition that has been around for centuries, a manifestation of the art of expressing one's opinions or feelings, a way of communicating and even solving important problems of society, through which the society has been communicating for many centuries.

In conclusion it is worth pointing out that the simple drawings on the streets are not trash or vandalism. They are created not to offend anyone or anything. It is an artist's cry from the heart about current issues and abnormalities of our world. This kind of art gives a chance to think about something new and to see the world in different colours and to plunge into the wonderful world of different cultures. Meanwhile, graffiti artists give you a unique opportunity to be involved in the process of creating graffiti while you are walking from home to work or just strolling with your friends. Artists use art as a tool in a war to say unspoken themes [1, p. 68].

In the study of graffiti, the interests of criminologists, culturologists, folklorists, psychologists, sociologists intersect. The world of modern graffiti is a display of the inner life of our contemporaries. It is a form of existence of the traditional subculture of the city, a phenomenon that survived through centuries, regardless of people's attitude towards it. Contemporary graffiti with traditional

symbols and attributes often serves as a business card for the youth groups and therefore deserves the attention of the researchers of the various industries.

REFERENCES

1. Гусева, А. Л. Стрит-арт и спальные районы современного города / А. Л. Гусева // Эстетика стрит-арта: сборник статей. – Санкт-Петербург : Санкт-Петербургский государственный университет промышленных технологий и дизайна, 2018. – С. 66-71.

2. Кораблева, А. В. Стрит-арт, паблик-арт, уличное искусство: дифференциация понятий / А. В. Кораблева // Эстетика стрит-арта: сборник статей. – Санкт-Петербург : Санкт-Петербургский государственный университет промышленных технологий и дизайна, 2018. – С. 10-17.

3. Самутина, Н. Не только Бэнкси : стрит-арт в контексте современной городской культуры / Н. Самутина, О. Запорожец, В. Кобыща // Неприкосновенный запас. Дебаты о политике и культуре. – 2012. – Т. 86 (6). – С. 221–244.