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James Joyce's *Dubliners* and Nataliia Kobrynska's *Galicians*: Concurrences, Mirrorings and Differences

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ABSTRACT

This article analyses the short stories by the writers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Irishman James Joyce and Ukrainian writer Nataliia Kobrynska. The research investigates typological similarities and differences of the authors' concept of a human being based on the images of the inhabitants of Dublin (Joyce) and the inhabitants of Galicia (Kobrynska). There is a distinctive duality of the material world in the short stories of the writers; it is aimed both at reproducing the reality of 'Dublin' and 'Galician' space, as well its symbolisation. Dublin for Joyce is a topos of unfulfilled dreams, 'the centre of paralysis' and disappointments. Its inhabitants experience a moment of enlightenment that highlights their loneliness, alienation, and inability to find or preserve their national, religious, or personal identity. Similarly, against the background of realistically portrayed social environment Kobrynska's short stories unfold complex psychodramas of the characters: the destruction of family and conflict of generations, confrontation of village and city, the fate of women in a patriarchal society, the awakening of the countryman's national and political awareness, the formation of the civic culture and philosophy of altruism, and the helplessness of a human during technological progress.

KEYWORDS

National psychotypes; chronotope; Galicians; *Dubliners*; James Joyce; Nataliia Kobrynska

Introduction

While the existence of James Joyce's *Dubliners* has long been a fact of world literature and literary criticism, the library of Ukrainian literature does not have the collection called 'Galicians' by Nataliia Kobrynska. By analogy with Joyce's collection, we assign this title to the short stories of the founder of Ukrainian literary feminism, a writer of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Halychyna or Galicia, had a turbulent history, being part of multiple states throughout its history, and is now in western Ukraine. According to the framework of our study, Kobrynska's short stories, like Joyce's *Dubliners*, can be perceived as a single entity. Their integrity is formed by the common issues shared between the stories, such as the topos of the plot, the author's emphasis on the motives of personal, religious, and national identities of the characters.

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