

# *Apple Blossoms* and *The Apple Tree*: Two Perspectives. Typological and Ideological Similarities in Short Stories by Mykhailo Kotsiubynsky and John Galsworthy

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**Summary.** The article provides comparative analysis of *Apple Blossoms* by Mykhailo Kotsiubynsky and *The Apple Tree* by John Galsworthy. Both authors explore human morality in a crisis of confrontation between sensuality and death, the beauty of life and the beauty of art. At the structural level, the works share an element of paratext, novelistic nature, polysemic images-landscapes, and methods of psychologization. Galsworthy engages the antinomy of the *city – province*, resorts to irony, and combines elements of impressionist writing with the traditions of realistic socio-psychological prose. In contrast, Kotsiubynsky systematically implements the impressionist fragmentary nature of the composition, symbolism of visual and auditory images, in-depth psychoanalysis, and the conventionality of the chronotope.

The issues of short stories are diversified and aesthetic – as is distinct for modernist literature – implicitly in Kotsiubynsky's work, and most explicitly through the connections with the Antiquity and English intertext in Galsworthy's prose.

**Keywords:** Mykhailo Kotsiubynsky; John Galsworthy; comparative analysis; Modernism; intertext.

## Introduction

Texts illustrating the dialogical nature of literature are bound to intrigue, especially, when it comes to similarities in works of authors who are not personally acquainted, or related to a shared geographical area, history or traditions. Ukrainian novelist Mykhailo Kotsiubynsky (1864–1913) and English writer John Galsworthy (1867–1933) both have an *Apple* short story in their portfolio, which are arguably the best works of each author. We shall use *Apple Blossoms* (1902) and *The Apple Tree* (1918) to analyze the different

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Kotsiubynsky applies the principle of internal dialogue based on the dichotomies of meanings.

Galsworthy strives to express the complexity and depth of his understanding of the *apple blossom* through the prism of the synthesis of Realism and Modernism. In contrast, Kotsiubynsky begins the development of aesthetic issues with the new artistic language as a modern alternative to the realistic way of Ukrainian prose development and creates a precedent of the European tradition in Ukrainian literature.

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