Philosophical Lyrics in the Poetry of Vasily Lebedev

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This article analyzes the philosophical lyrics of Lebedev’s poems. Lebedev’s poems are imbued with philosophical thoughts. In the creative work of Lebedev we have identified about 20 poems of philosophical lyrics, the themes of which are very diverse: in these verses the poet reflects on life, the past, the future, the purpose of life, death.

Keywors: philosophical lyrics, poetry, Vasily Lebedev, the life, the death, the image.

Research area: 24.00.00 – culture studies.

Studying the peculiarities of the creative process and the product of creation, Iu.B. Borev distinguishes the following components: reality – author – creative process; text- artistic reality and semantics (art concept) – reception [1; 456].

Among lyrical genres, researchers distinguish civil, philosophical, intimate and pastoral poetry, insisting on the fact that different forms of the lyric genre are mainly based on the "thematic principle". L. Bodrova, L. Timofeev and A. Bandura use the term "genre" to refer to a literature class. In his theory of poetry, G.N. Pospelov considers the ratio of the expressive and imitative origins to be the leading principle of classification of lyric genres [7, 108].

Vasily Lebedev was recognized and became famous as an outstanding Even poet. His multifaceted creative personality was vividly revealed in the field of science. He made it into history of the native people, as the first Even scientist, candidate (Ph.D.) of philological sciences.

The originality of the artistic worldview of the indigenous peoples of the North is their firm belief that not only bodies of family and friends contain human life, but also all things created by the human. Vasily Lebedev’s poetics demonstrates this syncretism in the native language with great artistic expression. For example, in the poem "Unta" (Mukluks), the girl’s footwear is endowed with special beauty:

Хэрэчэлкэн, нисалкан Beaded
Осал унтав тэттыди [2]

Mukluks out of skins, dressed

D.E. Vasil’eva, considering Lebedev’s poetry, wrote that "the lyrical protagonist in the works by Vasily Lebedev is diverse and extensive. He is a man with active life position, not a common contemplator. His reflections on the meaning
of life, the high destiny of the human, the place of the poet in the labour ranks are deep and philosophical” [2, 82].

The young years pass, as the winds, the poet compares these years to the season, calling them spring. The lyrical protagonist reflects on his past life and asks himself what else he can do:

Бининву нэлкэнин тачин-да елтэнни, Мой life-spring is over

Яв-дакич онңаву эмэнин. How much do I still have to do?

Wind, why have not you taken away

Тэгэлэ огэско он эгэс хоруски? To the faraway aether, why have not you taken with you?

Тогэми биниву нэлкэнин елтэнни [3]. Thus my life-spring has passed.

[А.В.]

The author reflects on the years of his childhood overcoming the cold, he uses metaphorical images "have tasted the icy cold": кунаруту елтэнни, / Анцанил ңэриэтэн/ Иңэньс гылсиван/ Амтаникан исурив. The bygone life of the Evens, according to the thoughts of Vasily Lebedev, got stuck in the rocks: оси бини тэгэлэн/ кадаралдулула набганна. Thoughts about the days gone by, we find in the poems "Анцанил" (Years), "Хупкуччэк уркэлэн" (At the door of the school), "Дэгэлёнин нэгэл" (Winged Days), «Тинив би» (Yesterday I).

Through the prism of native wildlife, Vasily Lebedev reveals his state of soul. The lyrical protagonist in the poem "Хоч хинмач" (Very Fast) has the opposite feelings, when a pine branch gets interwoven with the darkness, then it's hard for him to think about anything, and when the star shines in the sky, then his soul brightens.

С.М. Петрова in her reflection on the poem "Этикэр" (Old Men), writes that "the old men have got close with the nature around them and have become a part of it" [6, 70]. Here the poet shows the life of a man on land in a peculiar way. Youth is fast as the wind, and old age means respect, and therefore the poet describes the old men with great respect. Philosophical comprehension is accompanied by a leisurely pace, the author uses repetition; description of peace the poet transmits using the word хумкөттэ – whisper, they whisper to the forest, to the mountain top, to the coloured meadows, to the blue flowers, to the white swans, to the sky, to the sun.

The theme of fortitude is demonstrated in the poem "Иңэнь төр бэйдин" (If You Think You
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Are a Northerner). Using an annular construction of the strophe, Vasily Lebedev draws attention to the fact, how to live this life with dignity: be persistent, like a rock – кадар урэмэк маң били, your thoughts should be transparent, like a spring flower – кунтэк ойлан герси нова/ Урэмэкэн дёлбэр оли, as a stream from which a bird is drinking – чивчачен коланган/ биракчан могчинин.

The poet in his works shares his thoughts of being, of human destiny. Poet asks the eternal philosophical questions in his poem "Як гэрбэн тэгэлгэн?" (What Is Life?). Here we see the argument about life, about his own experiences, how to live this life. The poem consists of 9 equal triplets, each first line begins with a question, every second line contains an answer and the third one contains an imperative sentence. For example:

Як гэрбэн тэгэлгэн? What is life? Эвикэ. A game. Таракам, хотэлрэ хоч аич!

Then have a lot of fun with it!

Often we find thoughts about enlightened life. For example, in the poem "Хупкутчэ" (Knowledge): хупкуттэй эдэй би одамса, нөлтэнкэ ңэримэн эрэгэр бодамсам – I want to continue to learn, to always follow the bright sunbeams.

Meditations devoted to eternity, are frequent. For example, in the poem "Муэйилэ" (At the Museum) the protagonist reflects on the future: тэкээгэн бинивэн эмэлэн/ хоя би унна туркурэм – when I think about life / there is much I don’t understand; Мин биив уярман хакурин одакан минэвэн урлан туркудир – тачижан горолдих – when the road of my life will end / other like me will also think about eternity.

In lyrical and philosophical interpretation of the world, an important place is occupied by the theme of death, which is deeply national in Lebedev’s poems. In the poem "Ок ут-та төр долан ирэку" (Once Upon a Time I Will Be in the Ground), we see a kind of attitude to passing away ок-ут-та төр долан ирэку – by that time, when I will be in the ground. The lyrical protagonist reflects on how young people will be asking what he has written about, after reading the poem? The protagonist of the poem gives the answer to this question being confident that his life is truly reflected in his works.

Ок-ут-та төр долан ирэку

Once upon a time I will be in the ground

Гөндэну төрэму And the words I said
Дуктаная эмэлэн. Will remain written down.
Носэччэр дукатлав After reading my poems
Танинка улгимдири: Young people will ask:
-Ями-тка адькун бичэмдэ, -His life
Биджэн тэкээгэн Seems insufficient
Он энни ичумсэ, As if we don't see everything
Хаван-кка дийча-гу, яча-гу?

Seems like he has hidden something?

Таракам Later on
Бисиву тэкээгэн The life I’ve lived
Битлэдуб барагди илканди [2]. Will truly answer for me.
[A. V.]

Turning to the shaman theme in Lebedev’s works demonstrates religious views of the people.

Thus, the protagonist of the poem "Миргилан" – shaman Gurguli – during his shamanistic has a flight through three worlds and the author depicts it with the following words "дэ5сэн бисни ньааниндулин" – his wings have touched the Heaven, "њанан олда андык/ наманялду бавлиндэн" – having turned into a burbot/ he swam across seas, "кадарал-да, кунтэкэл/ дьээрэлникэн еелтёнчири" – rocks and meadows we passed by.

Vasily Lebedev combined the originality of thinking of a scientist and the imagery of a poet.
The latter spiritualized the first one. Therefore, his translations from his native language into Russian were peculiar due to the poetic features and scientific preciseness at the same time.

The analysis of the poet’s philosophical poetry leads us to the conclusion that Vasily Lebedev is a poet-thinker, in his poetry various philosophical categories are originally interpreted. Joyous philosophical poetry of the poet helps the reader to hope for the best, to fill his/her life with the spirit of dignity, pride, courage, nobility. It should be noted, that in Lebedev’s philosophical lyrics the issue of environmental and ethical-moral relationship between the human, environment and society is disclosed.

References


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В данной статье анализируется философская лирика поэзии В. Лебедева. Лебедевские стихи пронизаны философскими раздумьями. В творчестве В. Лебедева нами выявлено около 20 стихотворений философской лирики, тематика которой весьма разнообразна: в этих стихах поэт размышляет о жизни, о прошлом, о будущем, о предназначении жизни, о смерти.

Ключевые слова: философская лирика, поэзия, Василий Лебедев, жизнь, смерть, образ.

Научная специальность: 24.00.00 – культурология.