

© Ekaterina V. KOSTETSKAYA

Katerinavb@yandex.ru

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**“TOBOLSKIE GUBERNSKIE VEDOMOSTI”
AS A PART OF SIBERIAN TEXT IN RUSSIAN LITERATURE**

SUMMARY. This article investigates the issue of the place of the newspaper “Tobolskiye Gubernskiy Vedomosti” (1850–1860) in the structure of Siberian text in Russian literature. The topic of Siberia, Siberian people’s autoreflection, mythologization of the region can be considered as basic characteristics of Siberian text, that are found in “Tobolskiye Gubernskiy Vedomosti” publications. In the middle of the 19th century, a regional newspaper plays a remarkable role in the formation of the regional autoreflection. The authors place a special “inner” focus on the events of local life, a view on the specifics of the chain of events in a provincial text. In the official newspaper, the policy of which excluded the publication of fiction, there appeared a conditionally mythologized image of the region. In this process, documents have a value that is not less than that of fiction, which allows to add “Tobolskiye Gubernskiy Vedomosti”, existing on the borders of documentary and belles-lettres discourse, to the collection of Siberian text in the Russian literature.

KEY WORDS: Russian literature, Siberian text, literature and periodical press of Siberia, “Tobolskie gubernskie vedomosti”.

“Tobolskie gubernskie vedomosti” (hereafter — TobGV) played a considerable role in the formation of Siberian text. Modern researchers consider the newspaper as a peculiar picture of the Russian province in the 19th Century, as a historical and ethnographical source, as an expression of regional self-consciousness. G.M. Deich notes that “Tobolskie gubernskie vedomosti” provides valuable unique materials on regional history [1; 236]. In the opinion of V.F. Blokhin, “gubernskie vedomosti” is “the mirror of the Russian province”, “almost the only informational source for at least two generations of provincial population of Russia, which gives people the habit of being regularly informed about local news” [2; 26]. According to E.N. Konovalova, the newspaper “was needed [...] by the local intelligentsia who started showing a growing interest in the history, geography, ethnography of the region and strived to use the press for public education” [3; 40].

Researchers agree that the social self-awareness of several generations of Siberians found its expression in “gubernskie vedomosti”. The newspaper shows that in the middle of 19th Century, interest in Siberia was aroused not only “from outside” but also “from inside”. The two-sided view of Siberia — “from outside” and “from inside” — is defined in the works of M.K. Azadovskiy [4; 228]. In his book “Essays on literature and culture in Siberia”, Azadovskiy opposes two tendencies in the description of Siberia: a traditional

perception of Siberia as "a frightening and severe country, as a gloomy region of banishment and exile" and the idea of Siberian writers who tried to "establish a new point of view on their native land, to expose the charming fascination of its nature" [5; 503].

In this respect the second tendency finds its expression in TobGV: the editorial staff of the newspaper set out to show the life and nature of the region from the local inhabitant's point of view, to represent the events of provincial life and significant facts of Siberian history and daily routine. The material for this self-expression becomes not a literary but an ephemeral text of "local news". But through this medium, the reader gets an impression about who a Siberian is, what his history is, what an event in Siberian life is composed of.

Continuing the tradition of M.K. Azadovskiy, modern researchers of Siberian text define self-awareness as an initial feature of Siberian text: "We understand the regional literary process as an expression of subethnic consciousness (literary self-description) [...] And if a Siberian text is understood as a perception of the world by the inhabitants of the region then this phrase becomes a term [...] This is not an outside point of view but a self-expression of the Siberians, whether they are hunters or writers" [6; 33-34]. According to K.V. Anisimov, "the question of regional literature identification is a matter of principal for studying its poetics". The researcher supposes that "in the first place there must be a writer's personality, his self-consciousness which is the endeavor to associate his activities with the region, correlate his biography with his historical destiny" [7; 6].

A.S. Yanushkevich, in his work "Siberian text: the view from outside and inside", states the importance of correlating Siberian and pan-Russian basics to understand "the originality, questions and poetics of Siberian literature" [4; 228]. By the time of TobGV's publication in the middle of the 20th Century, Siberian text was becoming polysemantic. On the one hand it established an original semiosphere: its history, specificity, script, linguistic and ethnographic peculiarity. On the other hand it drew on the tradition of wider Russian culture. In local Siberian essay journalism and in the romantic stories of the Siberian prose-writers I. Kalashnikov, N. Shchukin, N. Bobylev and P. Ershov (1831-1841), regional self-awareness comes into being, and the moments which become symbolic for Siberian and all-Russian literature find their place: for the first time, Siberian material becomes a subject for literary comprehension, Siberian images and plots come into being, Siberia is meant as a historical and geopolitical space, local colour becomes a subject for narration and "material for research in documentary synthesis (historical, ethnographic, local regional) and fiction narrations" [4; 227-235].

Today the focus of philologists' attention is the problems of defining Siberian text structure [8]. In the framework of the established research tradition, all the phenomena of regional literature are united within the category "Siberian text". On the one hand, following the ideas of V.N. Toporov and Yu.M. Lotman, Siberian text is understood as a literary text; on the other hand, in accordance with the opinion of the same researchers, "non-literary" elements are also included in it. The basis for such inclusion is the idea that the place is thematized as a territorial text creating its mythology [9]. Thereby the specific character of Siberian text is connected with special geopoetry

[10] and mythopoetry [11]. Mythologizing of the image of Siberia is considered as a precondition for the formation of Siberian text by the scientists. In this case, literary and non-literary sources have equal value. In accordance with structural features for a common spatial image (supertext), not only literary facts are significant but also historical, journalistic, scientific and other ones.

In this respect the idea of V.A. Domanskiy, a regional specialist from Tomsk, regarding the obligatory inclusion not only of literary materials but also historical and journalistic ones in regional text, seems to be productive. In the article "Structural levels of Siberian text" he pays attention to the fact that Siberian text always goes beyond the limits of literary text in the "border" territories of geography, history, ethnography, folklore studies, journalism and represents itself as a multi-level structure: "it is not only literary, fictional text but it is also a publicistic, ideological and even scientific one, reflecting economical and cultural life of the region, formation and development of regional self-awareness" [12; 50]. Literature is linked with different spheres of cultural life, which form the context saturating Siberian text with its semantics.

V.A. Domanskiy's point of view is shared by N.A. Rogacheva, a philologist from Tyumen: "...the initial components which form "Siberian text" can be represented by different sources — like literary, also scientific, publicistic, documentary ones and even occasional textual formations (for example, inscriptions on the walls)" [13; 242]. Yu.A. Meshkov accentuates that it is impossible to draw a precise borderline between fiction and journalism, original creative work and political journalism. The literary space of a region is considered as the creative work of persons who made their contribution to the development of regional culture, who expressed their self-awareness with attention to local subject matter [14; 11-12]. In accordance with this point of view, publications in the local press, participation in editorial activities make the authors the participants of the regional literary process and creators of Siberian text. This approach allows to review "Tobolskie gubernskie vedomosti" as an element of local text. Materials in the newspaper provide quite a lot of symbolically informative details and motives which combine in the image of Siberian guberniya.

Research by literary schools in Tomsk [15] and Perm [16] was dedicated to the problem of the entry of Siberian text into period literature. The scientific interests of O.V. Zyryanov from the Ural region [17] are related to the periodicals of the 18th Century and the literary legacy of the creative work of I.I. Bakhtin. D.V. Larkovich, a researcher from Surgut [18], works on the journalistic work of P.P. Sumarokov. Authors from Novosibirsk pay considerable attention to the study of the literary-critical tradition of Siberia [19] and to the problem of the interpretation of Siberian theme in social and political journalism (A.I. Malyutina, N.N. Rodigina).

A.S. Yanushkevich refers the first step of Siberian text publishing to the work of local publications in Tobolsk "Irtysh turning into Ippokrena" (1789-1791), "Library of science, economy, morality, historical and entertainment for the benefit and pleasure of people of any rank" (1793-1794), "Historical journal" (1790). Continuing the chronology of A.S. Yanushkevich regarding Tobolsk guberniya of the mid 19th Century, it is necessary to emphasize that the second step of periodicals' entry into Siberian

text is related to "Tobolskie gubernskie vedomosti". The presentation of Siberian text in Russian literature and journalism started with it. And as the first journals in Tobolsk were far from Siberian themes and problems, "Tobolskie gubernskie vedomosti" became a tool to establish regional identity.

"Gubernskie vedomosti" played an important role in the establishment of the "inside" point of view on Siberia. The expression of the Siberians' own point of view on their region had special meaning in the context of increasing interest on the part of readers from other regions in Siberia. Leading Russian journals of the second half of the 19th / early 20th Centuries developed in the reader's mind an image of Siberia perceived "from outside". N.N. Rodigina, analyzing the image of the Siberian region gleaned from the leading Russian periodicals, reveals a range of steady components: Siberia is a terra incognita for educated Russians; the territory attracts young, single-minded Russians dreaming of glory and social recognition; a province culturally retrograded and requiring enlightenment and introduction to European civilization; the role of bureaucratic tyranny, "the country of lawlessness and illegality"; penal servitude, the country of banishment; a far cold country inhabited by other/strange nations; a rich region, the resource depository of the Empire, a peasant Eldorado [20; 97-99].

"Tobolskie gubernskie vedomosti" thoroughly followed the descriptions of Siberia in the capital's press, regularly publishing responses to those articles. "Gubernskie vedomosti" demythologized the image of the region which had been created in the capital's press: in appeals to the capital's journalists, "facts" or conclusions were refuted, wishes to write true facts about Siberia were stated. In contrast to the capital's publications, the image of Siberia created in the pages of the local newspaper did not have negative semantics. Despite numerous announcements about exile, death and fugitives (the information was not perceived by inhabitants as news), with efforts by the editorial staff and correspondents, a positive image of the provincial town and the whole Siberia was created: the "town in the newspaper" moves away from its "real" duplicate" [21; 52]. Along with the demythologizing of the "place", a new mythology is created.

Today more and more attention is paid to the study of the role of newspaper materials in research into local text. In the light of different problems of studying Siberian text (specificity, structure, chronology) the meaning of local periodicals becomes obvious in the development of the literary life of the region. The newspaper "Tobolskie gubernskie vedomosti" is a unique, synthetic source of historical, economical, geographical, and literary materials. In the 50s-60s, at the beginning of the establishment of the regional identity of Siberian literature, for provincial inhabitants the newspaper was the literary medium in which their self-consciousness found its expression. The aim to represent Siberian life "from inside" as the main goal of the editorial policy gives the right to include the articles of "Tobolskie gubernskie vedomosti" in Siberian text.

The publishing of the newspaper "Tobolskie gubernskie vedomosti" at the end of the 1850s became the most noticeable event in the new stage of development of Siberian text. In contrast to the previous literary and journalistic experiments, for the first time in Tobolsk gubernia Siberian questions were the center of attention of local writers and journalists.

In the journalistic materials of “Tobolskie gubernskie vedomosti” the artistic component of Siberian text reveals itself little by little. In the documentary newspaper announcements, the literary image of the Siberian region is in the process of formation. In publications about local life, authors create a positive image of the governorate town, depict an active provincial inhabitant, foster an educated reader interested in social life, history and culture. The fact that there was an appeal to local issues in the newspaper made its contribution to the development of regional self-awareness.

Throughout the long period of the establishment and self-determination of Siberian literature, two interrelated tendencies are observed: literature is established based on regional materials, actively using the possibilities of journalistic genres, and the local periodical press takes on the functions of a literary body and becomes the center of the cultural and literary life of the region. Common Siberian text initially was formed from the materials of different discourses. Thus the borders between periodical press and literature remain open and all the conditions are met to have a free way for the regional newspaper to come into the sphere of literary creation and obtain the quality of a literary object.

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