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THE USAGE PATTERNS OF BIBLE WORD “STAR” IN THE POETIC TEXT

Abstract

The Bible words usage patterns in Russian poetry are one of the mostly discussed issues of linguistic poetics of the early 21st century. Poetic Bible word is used in the text primarily to produce a certain emotional and/or aesthetic impact on the reader, associated with giving a particular context special importance and dual correlation. A lexical unit can have an inherent biblical status, since it relates primarily to the content of the Holy Scripture, and acquires this status in the text. Therefore, we can presumably talk about situational bible word – a Bible word, which is perceived as such only in the appropriate context. In some cases, a bible word, clearly associated with the plot of the Old or New Testament, loses its status, the religious components of the meaning are deactualized, the desacralization of the lexeme occurs. Such bible word can no longer be perceived as a religious onym or a sign of a curtailed plot, but it can be perceived as “culturema” and/or “poetizm”. This paper aims to consider desacralized biblical *star* in poetic texts of the 19th and 20th centuries to clearly demonstrate the specific features of such units.

The combinability of biblical *star* in a poetic text is rather traditional and quite stable. Sometimes the considered lexeme is used in “Bethlehem star”, “Star of Bethlehem” or “Star of Christmas”. However, the lexeme *star* is also often used outside of these onyms. Sometimes only a broad context enables to determine that the *star* in the text is not just a celestial body. The author of a poem can use the corresponding play of meanings, using the lexeme *star* in the text in the meaning of “a celestial body consisting of hot gases”, and in the meaning of the “birth sign of the Savior”. The considered lexeme is often used as a nomination of the light, being at the same time poetic lexeme. There is enough ground to argue that the word *star* can be described as both poetic bible word and biblical “poetizm” – a lexeme, whose perception as a traditional lexical unit for a poetic text is determined (completely or partially) by its correlation with the text of the Holy Scripture.

Keywords: Bible word, poetic Bible word, ad hoc Bible word, Bible poetic word.

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