

REVIEW

of the scientific work “Cultural Studies: Terminological Dictionary”
by P.E. Gerchanivska,
submitted to be awarded the International Prize named after Ivan Franko
in the nomination “For the Outstanding Personal Contribution
to the Development of Social Sciences and the Humanities”

The scientific work presented by P.E. Gerchanivska for the consideration to be awarded the International Prize named after Ivan Franko is, in my opinion, a successful attempt to provide a terminological basis for the young and promising science – the cultural studies. The author of the Dictionary lays a solid foundation for this new branch of knowledge that emerged at the intersection of the scientific and practical interests of the modern society, at the intersection of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Its dynamic development in recent decades is associated with the solution of the important social and cultural problems, with the finding ways of overcoming the global crisis in the modern world (including human identity crisis), with the search of the most effective strategies for the analysis of the cultural situation at all levels of intercultural relations.

I would like to draw your attention to the relevance and the importance of this dictionary. Although dictionaries and encyclopedias on the cultural studies have appeared recently, there is still an urgent need in the publications that can bridge the gap between different fields of scientific knowledge and help researchers who work in cultural studies.

The author aims to develop the conceptual apparatus of cultural studies on the common ideological foundation to overcome the differences in the interpretation of the terms that have been caused by the formation of various opinions about the culture

within the different humanities, by the constant change of the scientific paradigms and the methods of knowledge. These factors usually result in “aberrations” of the conceptual apparatus in the cultural sphere and actualize the problem of the development of the conceptual complex that focuses on the comprehension of the cultural phenomenon in the new social and cultural contexts.

To evaluate the importance of this terminological dictionary, I would like to start with the essential. The dictionary is the projection of the modern scientific concepts (post-structuralism, phenomenology, hermeneutics, semiotics, axiology, etc.) on the matrix of conceptual apparatus of the cultural studies. It contains definitions that reveal the essence of cultural phenomena which are important in terms of their social significance.

The conceptual model of the terminological dictionary is based on the ideas of the classical philosophy and postmodern, on the synthesis of the human knowledge about the culture of the modernity and previous eras. The author adheres to the principle of etymology: meanings of the terms borrowed from other languages or constructed with elements of Greek and Latin origin are revealed in the dictionary. It allows you to see “traces” of the past in the present.

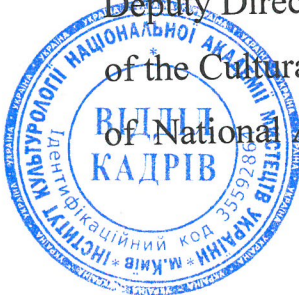
The block of the definitions in which the methodology of this new science is shown appears especially important. The author gives an idea of the directions and prospects of the modern research methodology and transfers the research approaches and methods of the humanities and social sciences to the cultural studies. Thus, the terminological dictionary creates the significant conceptual basis for the social and cultural researches within the cultural studies. I believe that the author’s idea to present the material in two languages – Ukrainian and Russian is very successful.

In general, the terminology dictionary leaves the pleasant impression. It is characterized by the high scientific level and the conceptuality, by the logical clarity and

author keeps the semantic, stylistic and lexical identity of the text. I believe that the scientific work "Cultural Studies: terminological dictionary" is a significant contribution to the development of cultural studies as a new branch of science.

Taking into consideration the international value of scientific achievements as well as the professional competence of the author in the field of cultural studies, I recommend that the scientific work "Cultural Studies: Terminological Dictionary" by P.E. Herchanivska should be submitted to the competition for the International Prize named after Ivan Franko in the nomination "For the Outstanding Personal Contribution to the Development of Social Sciences and the Humanities)".

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ANNOTATION

of the scientific work "Cultural Studies: Terminological Dictionary"
by P.E. Gerchanivska,
submitted to be awarded the International Prize named after Ivan Franko
in the nomination "For the Outstanding Personal Contribution
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The purpose of the proposed terminological dictionary is the systematization of the conceptual apparatus of the new scientific discipline – cultural studies which integrates knowledge about the culture of the all spectrum of humanities. In the field of cultural studies were included terminological tools of philosophy, sociology, history, art history, philology, psychology and others spheres of scientific knowledge.

But with time it turned that one of the problems of formation of terminological dictionary consists exactly in this syncretism. The specificity of theoretical and methodological tasks of each discipline led to the multi interpretation of one and the same term. As a consequence it was important to select from the all variety of terms and concepts such keywords which were most closely linked with the problems of cultural studies.

Another difficulty, with which the author confronted, consists in the fact that the terminological complex of cultural studies is an open system and its development is the progressive cumulative process. The block of terms, which relate to the cultural space of the past, occupies the special place in its structure. Some terms are the established notional units; the other are actualized today in a totally new role, reflecting the still unstudied aspects of reality, new relationships between objects and phenomena.

In forming terminological dictionary the author aims to build the model of conceptual apparatus on the base of synthesis of knowledge about culture as of previous eras so and the modern epoch.

In the process of creating the dictionary not only the tasks of help character were resolved, the author aim was to reflect the features of the current stage of development of

culture through the cultural studies concepts. Terminological dictionary is the projection of the actual problems of the cultural studies on the matrix of the conceptual apparatus.

The ideological transformation at the beginning of the XXI century, the change of paradigms in the socio-cultural system have set new tasks before the cultural studies which are connected with such strategic problems as: the understanding of the transformation of the spiritual values in the social and cultural spheres; the development of the optimal strategy of the cultural policy in the modern realities; the finding ways to preserve the cultural diversity and the adaptation of the traditional cultural institutions to the conditions of the globalization process; the development of the effective models for overcoming the crisis of the human identity, etc. This has led to the formation of the specific conceptual and categorical apparatus of the cultural studies associated with post-structuralism, phenomenology, structuralism, semiotics, etc.

Let us note one more important aspect of the problem. In the era of information society the special style of the thinking arises, it forms the new culture, the culture of the postmodern (in its two versions – the classical postmodern deconstruction and after-postmodernism). This phenomenon has not yet acquired the status of the philosophical traditions in the mode “past perfect”. Its content is in the process of formation and the terminology tools do not have sufficient uniformity, some terms are presented only by West European scientific literature. A special place in the dictionary is given to the complex of terms related to theoretical and methodological apparatus of cultural studies.

Terminological dictionary was prepared on the basis of well-known dictionaries of cultural studies, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, psychology, art history (see the “List of used literature”).

The architectonic of work. The dictionary consists of two autonomous chapters in which are reflected the main problems fields of the cultural studies knowledge. Chapter 1 “Glossary” is written in Ukrainian and includes the Ukrainian alphabet, the list of abbreviations, the block of terms and concepts which are located alphabetically and the index of names.

Block “Terms and concepts” contains the terms (terminological phrases), which in recent decades firmly are entrenched in the cultural studies. The dictionary explains the

words which were borrowed from other languages or were formed from elements of Greek and Latin. By preparation of the edition the author took into account changes in the interpretation of the terms, which were caused by social and cultural transformations in the modern society. The block contains cross-references to other terms which are encountered in the dictionary; the term to which reference is made is allocated in italics.

The second chapter "Glossary" is the Russian translation of the first chapter of dictionary. In the translation from Ukrainian into Russian the author keeps the semantic, stylistic and lexical identity of the text. The dictionary also includes "Alphabet index of Terms" (Ukrainian and Russian) and "List of literature used".

Taking into account the fact that the cultural studies refers to the dynamic area of scientific knowledge, the author plans to continue the work on improving of the dictionary in accordance with modern requirements.

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