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SPIRITUAL VALUES OF STUDENT YOUTH IN TODAY'S REALITIES: ANALYSIS OF CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC PROJECTS

The article addresses the pressing issues of the transformation of spiritual values of the Ukrainian people in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war through the lens of student cultural and artistic projects. The author examines contemporary research in the context of defining the spiritual values of Ukrainian youth during such a complex period as wartime. The relevance of addressing this issue is justified. The essence of the concept of "spiritual values" is explained as a complex concept that defines important life principles for individuals, shaped in the realm of spirituality and cultural and artistic creativity. The article offers an interpretation of cultural and artistic projects as complex, multifaceted processes that involve unique forms of interpersonal creativity, directed toward achieving specific goals and limited by space, time, and resources.

In the context of this theme, a comparative analysis is conducted on the results of student cultural and artistic pre-war projects and those carried out during online learning in the occupied territories and the midst of hostilities. The obtained results, in the form of created video content, indicate transformational processes with a focus on the sphere of spiritual values, such as love for the homeland, one's hometown, and one's family, national dignity, the significance of one's "self" in wartime, and faith in victory. The conclusion claims that the dire conditions of Russian aggression, in which our student youth found themselves, led to the transformation of the spiritual values of Ukrainian society into internal, high-spirited personal traits of young individuals.

Keywords: *spiritual values; online learning in wartime; certification program; methodology for organizing cultural and artistic projects and their direction; comparative analysis.*

Formulation of the problem. In times of peace, the issues of the spirituality of the Ukrainian people, their spiritual values, as well as manifestations of secularism, have been extremely relevant in the fields of philosophy, psychology, pedagogy, sociology, art history, and cultural studies.

The interest and necessity of addressing the nation's value priorities are justified and pertinent because the value system is the

foundation of personal development. It is what connects society with the individual. Values guide an individual's life and motivate their actions, while spirituality strengthens the unity of our society, enabling the overcoming of any obstacles and difficulties that affect humanity in different countries, including Ukraine.

To support this position, we turn to the legacy of Academician I. A. Ziaziun (1997), who repeatedly noted: «The spiritual elite is primarily defined by those who seek new moral ideals, ways to recreate a great society, new, more perfect, worthy means of uniting people, and higher goals» (p. 33). One cannot disagree with this insightful and profound statement from the Ukrainian scholar.

It should be noted that the theoretical aspects of values and human spirituality have been traced since ancient times, and their manifestations have been studied throughout the development of all historical epochs of civilization. Therefore, it is natural that domestic scholars direct their attention to the study and resolution of problems in the sphere of spiritual values in Ukrainian society. Questions related to the formation of the spiritual world and personal spirituality have been concerned by such well-known scholars as I. D. Bekh, M. Y. Boryshevsky, I. A. Ziaziun, E. O. Pomytkin, V. V. Rybalka, and others.

Today, in the extraordinarily challenging circumstances of the large-scale Russian aggression, which has had a negative impact on the daily lives of Ukrainians, tragically changed the fates of millions of people, including the student youth, the issues of understanding such essential, profound concepts as «spirituality» and «spiritual values» have become highly acute (Lymarenko, 2023, p. 14).

Analysis of recent research and publications. The Ukrainian researcher O. M. Khrystenko (2022), in her scientific exploration, presented the results of a content analysis of written creative works by second-year students of Ivano-Frankivsk National Medical University named after I. Y. Horbachevsky. In the students' essays, the values of Ukrainian youth during times of war are identified. The author found that in the current conditions of modern warfare, family and national values have become a priority for higher education students, as well as peace, faith, freedom, dignity, unity, and charity. In nearly all of the authored essays, national unity is identified as the most important value and a prerequisite for victory in the war against the enemy. Students assert that the Ukrainian heroic history and spiritual ethno-

genetic heritage are the fundamental values that support the Ukrainian people in this dreadful war. O. M. Khrystenko (2022) points out that the presented results attest to the value-based attitude of Ukrainian youth toward such social/political/spiritual institutions as the state, nation, family, language, faith, history, and culture (p. 100). We share and support the timeliness of this author's position.

The authors of the collective monograph «Ukrayinske Suspilstvo v Umovakh Viyny» («Ukrainian Society in Wartime») note that the brutal Russian aggression in Ukraine has been a severe test for our state and its citizens. However, this horrific war has significantly strengthened civil unity and patriotic consolidation of our society. The Ukrainian people have transformed into a powerful social organism ready to adapt and resist military aggression. For Ukrainians defending their families, and native land, the purpose and motivation of this war are clear and incredibly truthful. Thus, in Ukraine, folk songs, stories, numerous memes, a heroic epic, and new heroes are emerging, symbols of the liberation war for their freedom and independence (Holovakha, & Makeiev, 2022, p. 25-33). The monograph emphasizes that the collective of scholars considered global and local aspects of the war, the transformation of citizens' value orientations, explored aspects of people's coexistence in extraordinary life circumstances, work, and daily communication, as well as the faculty of social sciences in higher education institutions, students, and postgraduates.

It is relevant to mention that the positions and thoughts of the collective of scholars presented in the monograph do not bypass the students and faculty of Kherson State University.

The purpose of the article is to conduct a comparative analysis of student cultural and artistic projects created in the context of the ongoing Russian aggression, with a focus on the transformation of spiritual values among the Ukrainian people, particularly the student youth.

Research methods. To achieve the stated purpose, general scientific methods were applied, including the comparison and juxtaposition of various perspectives on the defined problem, the synthesis of experience, and the systematization of the researched material. These methods allowed for tracking the reevaluation and transformation of the spiritual values of students in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war through cultural and artistic projects.

Presenting main material. Working at the Faculty of Culture and Arts at KHSU with future specialists in artistic fields, it is logical and appropriate to address issues related to spiritual values at the highest level in the value system. This serves as the pinnacle of national achievement and a representation of individuals with high spiritual qualities and ideals. Therefore, the relevance of addressing this problem is due to the following factors:

- Russian military aggression.
- The direction of an individual's life and their important guiding principles in times of war.
- The need to emphasize the deep understanding of the concept of «spiritual values» among students.
- The intensification of the search for pathways of self-realization among students in the sphere of culture and art, directed at creating new spiritual or material values during wartime.

It is worth noting that the entire collective of Kherson State University found themselves in a very challenging situation regarding the continuation of the educational process when the war and occupation of Kherson and its region began. However, there was no question of stopping the educational process. The decision was made unanimously. The transition to online learning was a feasible option, as it was a lesson learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Teaching and learning in a remote mode are very challenging, but it's possible.

Continuing to teach the author's long-term certificate program «Organization and Direction of Cultural and Artistic Projects» developed for postgraduate students on various artistic specializations, we can confidently assert that there is a significant difference between the results of students' activities during peacetime and wartime.

However, before revealing the differences in creative works produced by students, it is advisable to clarify the essence of the concept of a «cultural and artistic project». This concept can be understood as a complex, multifaceted process by its nature, characterized by a unique form of creative interpersonal interaction aimed at achieving specific goals and cultural values, limited by place, time, and resources.

It's important to emphasize that the realization of a cultural and artistic project occurs through the collaboration of the personal potential capabilities of all participants in the educational process, working towards achieving specific shared goals and cultural values.

Furthermore, creating a cultural and artistic project in the context of online learning is a massive and complex task, where video content often serves as the equivalent of a final exam.

A previous article by the author (published in the collection of scientific works «Aesthetics and Ethics of Pedagogical Action» in 2022, issue 26) (Lymarenko, 2022) was devoted to the introduction of the mentioned long-term certificate program into the educational process of Kherson State University, as well as the definition of the higher education requirements for creating modern programs of this type. The educational components of the program were presented, including «Art of Stage Speech», «Acting Mastery and Directing», «Methodology of Writing Scripts for Cultural and Artistic Events», and «Methodology of Organizing Cultural and Artistic Projects and Their Directing» (Lymarenko, 2022, p. 247). The result of mastering these educational components by students is the acquisition of theoretical knowledge and practical skills in organizing and directing various forms of cultural and artistic projects.

The educational component «Methodology for Organizing Cultural and Artistic Projects and Their Direction» serves as the concluding part of the structural and logical scheme of the certificate program. Therefore, it becomes evident that the creator of the cultural and artistic project, in the produced video content, must demonstrate multiple roles:

- Screenwriter: The student is equipped with the methodology for scriptwriting.
- Narrator, Presenter, Actor: Having acquired skills in the art of stage speech and acting, the student can take on these roles.
- Organizer and Director of the Project: According to the logical structure of the certificate program and the requirements of the examination session.

It is important to note that creating video content involves not only the directorial concept and its compositional structure but also the technological directorial concept, which proved to be a challenging aspect for students during the practical implementation of their creative works. Nevertheless, gaining an understanding of the technical capabilities of smartphones has enabled students to overcome certain difficulties effectively.

Certainly, within the scope of this article, it is necessary to provide an interpretation of the term «spiritual values». Regarding the

clarification of this complex definition, it should be noted that there is no single, unequivocal definition in dictionary literature. Therefore, we can base our understanding of spiritual values on formulations such as:

- «...creations of the human spirit, recorded in the achievements of science, art, morality, and culture» (Honcharenko, 1997, p. 108).

- «...as the pinnacle achievements of humanity, representing guiding ideals for the progressive development of individuals and civilization as a whole, particularly among its representatives» (Pomytkin, 1998, pp. 26-27).

Thus, we arrive at a general understanding of spiritual values as a complex concept that defines important life orientations for individuals, formed within the sphere of spirituality and cultural-creative activities.

Currently, there is an active deepening and realization of the fact that spiritual values form the basis for the choice of goals, means, and conditions for the activities of each individual. Therefore, we propose interpreting spiritual values as personal qualities of a highly spiritual individual that regulate their actions, behavior, and cultural creativity and are the subject of their development and self-improvement to achieve new spiritual heights.

Having clarified the essence of all the main categories of our article, let us return to the conducted comparative analysis of the results of student cultural and artistic pre-war projects and those created in the context of online learning during the occupation and later under continuous shelling of Kherson and its suburbs, which were liberated from invaders.

The difference primarily lies in the choice of topics for creating their projects for higher education students. During peacetime, they mostly explored themes like love, parent-child relationships, betrayal, gender inequality in society, personal interests, the correctness of choosing a profession, and so on. However, during times of war, the thematic focus has radically shifted. The ongoing war has become the basis for the creation of cultural and artistic projects that vividly reflect the transformation of spiritual values of the Ukrainian people and individuals themselves. The topics chosen by the students and the

content of their works are permeated with spiritual values such as love for the homeland and their native city, national dignity, the significance of the individual self in times of war, love for family, love for children, and faith in victory.

Secondly, when selecting material for their projects, students turned to achievements in Ukrainian culture, categorically rejecting anything Russian. It's worth noting that the city of Kherson and the Kherson region are multicultural areas, and Russian was predominantly spoken in everyday life. However, the language used in cultural and artistic projects was exclusively Ukrainian. Even those students who faced certain difficulties overcame this language barrier. No one wanted to communicate in the language of the aggressor.

Thirdly, what was surprising and produced a positive outcome was the students' exploration of various artistic forms for presenting the content of their cultural and artistic projects. These forms included exhibition presentations, TV sketches, critical analysis, photo marathons, interview confessions, live stories, open-thought marathons, and more.

Furthermore, it is worthwhile to provide a few examples of the creative work results of our students. One of the projects, in terms of artistic form, was an exhibition presentation titled «Bright Colours of Lost Treasures», dedicated to the work of artists Serhii Pushchenko, Liudmila Panchenko, and Alexander Tarasenko, who perished at the hands of Russian invaders. This creative project involved four graduate students from the Department of Fine Arts, future artists who were in occupied territories at that time. In extreme conditions, they recorded their videos and edited the material into a cohesive work of art. Despite the immediate threat to their lives during the occupation and later the relentless shelling of Kherson, the project was completed and even presented on December 1, 2022, at the 20th International Art and Pedagogical Readings dedicated to the memory of Professor O. P. Rudnytska (Ivan Ziaziun Institute of Pedagogical and Adult Education of NAPS of Ukraine, Kyiv).

It is also worth noting that at the 5th International Multigenre Two-Tour Contest-Festival «Spivohrai», which took place in April 2023 at the Volodymyr Vynnychenko Central State University (Kropyvnytskyi, Ukraine), the student project of the graduate artists received a first-degree diploma.

Let's focus on the analysis of another artistic and creative project by cultural studies master's students, which was classified as an «Open Thoughts Marathon» titled «With Thoughts of Peace. With Ukraine in Our Hearts». The script was aimed at exploring human relationships during times of war, which deprived the Ukrainian people of many things that were customary and not always appreciated. The project highlighted the reevaluation and reassessment of values during the war. People's attitudes towards supposedly simple, everyday things changed: being close to one's family, simply communicating in one's native language, valuing the independence of one's homeland, and cherishing every moment of life. The students independently wrote and performed poems, emotionally presented journalistic texts, provided factual information, conducted a social survey among the Ukrainian population, and analyzed its results. The students demonstrated their skills in scriptwriting, acting, narration, and directing. As with the previous cultural and artistic project, this one was highly praised (received a first-degree diploma) by a professional jury at the 5th International Multigenre Two-Tour Contest-Festival «Spivohrai» (Kropyvnytskyi, Ukraine).

It's important to note that there were also original works addressing the issue of freeing prisoners who defended Mariupol, a cultural and artistic project presentation on Ukrainian art abroad, featuring student actors who work at the National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre named after T.H. Shevchenko in Kyiv while studying at Kherson State University. Several interesting projects were created about their homeland, but the authors of these works requested not to share them on social media because they are still in occupied territories to this day.

Therefore, the comparative analysis of the creative works produced by the graduate students has allowed us to identify the distinct features of cultural and artistic projects created in the conditions of the Russian-Ukrainian war:

- A fundamental shift in the thematic focus.
- Utilization of domestic cultural achievements.
- Presentation of material exclusively in the Ukrainian language.
- A variety of artistic forms for cultural and artistic projects in video content.

The obtained results in the format of created video content point to transformational processes with a profound focus on the realm of spiritual values. The dreadful conditions of the Russian aggression that our student youth faced led to the transformation of the spiritual values of Ukrainian society into internal, personal, high-minded characteristics of a young person's character.

Conclusions. Indeed, war presents a severe test of both the material and spiritual strength of our nation, and it has brought about a reevaluation and transformation of spiritual values. The cultural and artistic projects created by graduate students provide evidence that, under the harsh conditions of Russian military aggression, certain spiritual values have become highly significant for the Ukrainian people, as well as for the students:

- Love for the Motherland, the native land, the unity of our people, pride in belonging to the Ukrainian nation, and national dignity.
- The significance of life and one's own identity in the realities of war.
- Love for one's family and children.
- Belief in justice regarding the punishment of criminals.
- Confidence in the victory of the Ukrainian people and Ukraine's peaceful future.

Undoubtedly, after the end of the war, the question of rebuilding Ukraine will arise, and one of the crucial tasks for the state and its society will be the restoration of the nation's cultural heritage. The fulfillment of this complex task will largely depend on the high-minded youth. It is believed that the graduates of the Faculty of Culture and Arts at Kherson State University, as professional workers in the humanitarian and cultural spheres with a high level of spirituality, clear cultural priorities, the native language, national traditions, and values, will be able to effectively interact, organize cultural and artistic events for various segments of the population, and develop and adjust cultural policies not only for the Southern region but for our entire country.

The prospects for further research in the context of the mentioned theme are closely tied to the development of new student cultural and artistic projects, which will be created in the current

academic year under the conditions of online learning and the ongoing war. Notably, there are already some noticeable changes and developments, such as innovative artistic forms of expression, more refined technical performance, and the incorporation of lessons learned from the previous year. Another promising direction is the dissemination of video content on social media platforms. Sharing cultural and artistic projects that prominently feature the value systems of contemporary youth can contribute to strengthening the unity of the Ukrainian people, overcoming significant obstacles and difficulties, and fighting for a brighter future. By setting a personal example through the created creative projects, it is possible to promote universal spiritual values that have a broader human significance.

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Лідія Лимаренко

ДУХОВНІ ЦІННОСТІ СТУДЕНТСЬКОЇ МОЛОДІ В РЕАЛІЯХ СЬОГОДЕННЯ: АНАЛІЗ КУЛЬТУРНО-МИСТЕЦЬКИХ ПРОЄКТІВ

У статті порушуються актуальні питання трансформації духовних цінностей українського народу в умовах російсько-української війни через призму студентських культурно-мистецьких проєктів. Авторкою обґрунтовується актуальність звернення до зазначеної проблеми; розкривається сутність поняття «духовні цінності» як складного концепту, що визначає важливі життєві орієнтири людини, які формуються у сфері духовності та культурно-мистецької творчості; пропонується трактування культурно-мистецького проєкту як складного, багатоаспектного, різноманітного процесу за своєю природою й особливою формою творчої міжособистісної взаємодії, спрямованої на досягнення певної мети, що обмежена

місцем, часом і ресурсами. В контексті зазначеної тематики здійснено порівняльний аналіз результатів створених студентських культурно-мистецьких довоєнних проєктів і тих, що виконані під час онлайн-навчання в окупації та в умовах бойових дій. Отримані результати, у форматі створених відеоконтентів, указують на трансформаційні процеси з їх зосередженістю на просторі світу духовних цінностей, таких як: любов до Батьківщини, до рідного міста та своїх рідних, національна гідність, значимість власного «Я» в умовах війни, віра в Перемогу. Зроблено висновок, що жахливі умови російської агресії, у яких перебувала наша студентська молодь, спричинили перетворення духовних цінностей українського суспільства у внутрішні, особистісні високодуховні риси характеру молодої людини.

Ключові слова: духовні цінності; онлайн-навчання в умовах війни; сертифікатна програма; методика організації культурно-мистецьких проєктів та їх режисура; порівняльний аналіз.

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