

Review of: "The Baptism on the Savica – The Slovene National Epic With a Question Mark"

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The article examines Frans Prešeren's poem *Krst pri Savici* ("Baptism on the Savica") from 1836 in the context of the Slovenian national epic. The author made an attempt to reveal the genre features of the epic in 19th-century poetry. In the literature of romanticism in different countries, a common phenomenon was the construction of a folk epic in authors' texts. For example, in Ukrainian literature, there were such attempts to stylize poetic works to glorify historical events.

The article uses theoretical approaches to rethink the folk epic in Taterka's work, "Nation erzählt sich selbst". Marko Juan singled out the characteristic features of the epic in the poem and added a Christian component in the aspects of consideration of the heroes. The study is interesting in the system of studying romantic poems, but the thesis that each nation can have only one epic seems contradictory if we consider the epic as a separate work (in this case, a poem).

As for the thesis about an attempt to create a cultural national identity through integration into Christianity: "The military-political foundation of the nation had to give way to the cultural one. Such a *modus operandi* for creating a collective identity of Slovenes may run counter to the typical aspirations of European national movements." In fact, such ideas were also echoed by other romantics. The first part of the poem about the heroic past of the Slovenian people is a vivid example of the epic glorification projected by the romantics onto the present day of their people under the conditions of statelessness. Therefore, the elegiac nature of the story about reconciliation can be perceived only in the context of the mood of the society at the time of the poem's writing.

To study the story as an epic component, it would be possible to use the works of G. Genette, where it is said that about three categories in the consideration of narrative texts. Perhaps by adding some terms to distinguish between history and narration, it would be possible to clarify the components of the epic in the poem under study.

In general, the attempt to research the romantic theme is relevant for rethinking Slovenian culture and history, projecting national issues based on the idea of European romanticism.