

The Tsimlyansk Sea in the Narratives of the Inhabitants of the Submerged (Relocated) Stanitsi

Olga Belova

(Summary)

The article analyses the plot-motive content and genre structure of the oral narratives (memories) about the submerging of the Don stanitsi [stations] in connection with the construction of the Tsimlyansk Dam in the middle of the 20th century. The focal points of the narratives about submerging are: the loss of the ‘small homeland’ as a result of the catastrophe, the eschatological experiences, the miraculous ‘return’ of the submerged territories and objects (in visions and in reality, depending on natural phenomena). The narratives about the submerging from the Don region demonstrate a typological similarity with texts from other regions of the former USSR, which allows us to speak of a separately developed genre of modern verbal folklore.

Keywords: oral history; folk narrative; Tsimlyansk Dam; submerging; local memorial culture

Olga Vladislavovna Belova
Institute of Slavic Studies
of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Pogonnyi proezd, 12-1-186
107258 Moscow, RUSSIA
olgabelova.inslav@gmail.com