

QUEER- AND TRANS-IDENTITY: VERBALIZATION OF PLURALIZED GENDER DUALITY IN A POSTMODERNIST LITERARY TEXT

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The paper attempts to characterize verbal peculiarities of such types of gender identity as 'queer' and 'trans'. Correlation between sex and gender is considered to identify a character of a fiction text. Verbal means of gender identity formation and presenting are treated as crucial tools of characters interpretation and their functioning in a text. 'Queer' is a generic notion meant to nominate a person who falls outside the heterosexual mainstream or the gender binary. The term used to be slang or taboo, but recently it has lost its pejorative and offensive colouring and is used to nominate anybody differing from the traditional gender stereotype. 'Transgender' is understood as relating to a person whose gender

identity does not correspond to his/her biological sex assigned at birth. Transgendered characters feel to be of a different sex and want to change it into the opposite or to be accepted in society as those of a different sex. 'Transsexuals' do not just desire to assume the physical characteristics and gender role of the opposite sex, but they usually have medical treatment to change their sex and undergo sex reassignment surgery. Though, 'queer', 'transgender', and 'transsexual' are often confused or treated as synonyms. Queer, transgendered or transsexual characters are recognized by verbal description of their appearance, clothes, behaviour. Gender identity is revealed in the characters' and narrator's speech.