Modern Canadian Poetry as Intercultural Approach for English Language Learning and Teaching in Ukraine

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Abstract

Using of modern poetry proved to be very useful for learning and teaching English as foreign language in Ukraine. First and foremost poems are laconic and rhythmically organized. That is why it is much easier to memorize poetry than prose fragments. Besides, having close contacts with Canadian lecturers due to exchange programs, we had access to a lot of books of modern Canadian poets and came to conclusion that actually they touch upon those problems which are topical in Ukraine. Moreover, poets who belong to Canadian Ukrainians’ Diaspora focus on urgent challenges of modern Ukraine. So, using such poetry in language learning presents intercultural approach.

We have chosen poems of Margot Osborn, Peter (Vasyl’) Kuzyk and other modern Canadians who touch upon the problems of life and eternity, responsibility of man before God, beauty of nature and human relations:

The poet is a universe alone
Among the hurrying members of mankind,
Erudite unaware kinetic blind,
Who tread the earth as if it were a stone [1, p.68; 2, p.7].

In 2000 the poetry written by Margot Osborn was translated into Ukrainian by Ol’ha Ivasiuk [2]. In 2006 a new book “Penelope Today” containing Ukrainian translations of M. Osborn’s poetry was published by O. Ivasiuk [3].

Thus, modern Canadian poetry has been chosen for intensive English learning and teaching as well as for comparative studies at the workshops in translatology.