

FRONT EPISTOLARY SOURCES ON THE STUDY OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF UZBEKISTAN PEOPLE TO THE PERIOD OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR (1941-1945)

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Abstract: The article discusses the methodology for researching front-line epistolary sources to study the contribution of Uzbeks during the Second World War. The front-line letters of Uzbek citizens are analyzed and the perceptions of the individual meanings of the front-line soldier recorded in the epistolary text are substantiated, and the structure of the epistolary source is revealed.

Key words: epistolary genre, front-line epistolary source, front-line letters, addressee, psychosemantics, World War II, Uzbeks, cultural and historical phenomenon.

INTRODUCTION

The study of the history of the Uzbek SSR during the war period (1941 - 1945), despite the presence of a significant number of works created mainly during the Soviet period, is one of the popular scientific areas of domestic science. The relevance of the study is due to the fact that today, in the context of a revision and qualitative improvement of the system of international relations, this period of history is subject to careful study and objective reassessment on the territory of almost all post-Soviet republics. Heated discussions around the results of the war, determining the contribution of the Soviet republics, in particular the Uzbek SSR, to the victory over Nazism, the place and role of individuals in history have always been the focus of attention of historians.

RESEARCH METHODS

In recent years, a direction has been actively developing in historical science, based on the study of the Second World War, based on front-line,

epistolary sources. In this regard, scientists come to the attention of epistolary sources - ego-documents - memories (memoirs), diaries and letters, which allow us to see the war not from the perspective of textbooks and marshal memoirs, but through the eyes of ordinary participants in the event being studied

That is why, in a comprehensive study of the economic, political, and social aspects of military clashes, documents created by participants or eyewitnesses of the events are of particular importance. In this regard, letters from soldiers to relatives and friends and a response letter to the front, living facts about a bygone era, thoughts of people written under the direct influence of military events.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The first scientific works devoted to epistolary sources were published in the 1960s. These are publications by S. Rozanov and A. Verkhovskaya, where the authors presented methods for analyzing letters addressed to authorities or newspaper editorial offices. [1, p. 26-37]

It should be noted that letters of the Soviet period are divided into several types: 1) as a newspaper genre; 2) as a type of office documents, i.e. a message to state and public institutions; 3) letters to famous politicians, artists, writers, etc.; 4) as a type of epistolary genre, i.e. private correspondence [2, p. 18-22]. The issue of archeography was raised separately, where the rules for publishing ego-documents were discussed. When popularizing texts, it was proposed to take into account the time, topic and relevance of both the scientific and ordinary public as a whole, observing the archaeological rules for publishing the source

Nevertheless, it was during this period that, in connection with the development of source studies as a special historical discipline in Soviet historiography, special methods began to be developed and separate approaches to working with the epistolary heritage began to emerge.

The peculiarity of working with correspondence in the above-mentioned studies was often regulated by the influence of ideology. Often, a significant part of the researchers cited quotes from the text of the letters to substantiate their

conclusions and views on the problem under study. At the same time, synthetic analysis of the content of the source was practically not applied, and if partially given, it was only for materials posted on the pages of newspapers and magazines.

The inner world of a person at war is a special mental system formed by the front-line environment. The structure of this system can be modeled using psychosemantics methods. The grounds for applying this method to the text of a front-line letter are derived from the specifics of the epistolary genre itself, which is one of the forms of semantic organization in which the representation of the object - the addressee to the subject - the addressee is expressed. Therefore, the construction of semantic spaces as a method of model representation of the individual meanings of a front-line soldier is used in the analysis of front-line writing as a cultural and historical phenomenon of a transactional nature and performing a communicative function. The use of this method allows us to formulate and solve important problems related to the study of meanings in the individual mind of the author of the letter, modeling them in the form of images, signs, symbols and symbolic actions. In this regard, the method of reconstructing the subjective semantic space in the study of front-line writing is distinguished by the construction of a model of the categorical structure of individual consciousness, on the basis of which the classification of objects and concepts identified in the content of the letter is carried out by analyzing their meanings. In our case, the immediate object of analysis changes, the emphasis shifts from the person to the text he created.

Source analysis of epistolary sources is determined by the value of the information associated with the role and place of the individual in the events that took place. In this regard, in modern historical science, researchers pay great interest to identifying and studying new sources, where the focus is on the problem of man in history, the formation of his identity and the education of a harmonious personality. The source value of the correspondence lies in the fact that they not only complement events, but also allow us to evaluate the consciousness,

worldview, feelings and emotions of the individual - a participant and eyewitness of the war. Thus, letters at the same time for a researcher can become a tool for reconstructing the memories of people of the front generation. This allows us to expand the chronological scope of the work, completing the circle with a description of the post-war fate of participants or eyewitnesses, as well as victims of the war.

The representativeness and information potential of wartime letters, which are stored not only in republican and regional archives, but also in the collections of libraries and museums of the republic, requires the formation of a new galaxy of researchers. Since the development of such scientific areas as social history, microhistory, gender history, history of everyday life of the population, etc., should simultaneously expand the range of use of unofficial sources.

The intensive work of domestic archivists to collect front-line letters, which began in 1942, subsequently served to form special archival collections. From the 1960s to the present day, researchers have been developing special methods for analyzing and working with epistolary sources.

The specificity of letters from the front as a valuable source is that, in terms of the time of their creation and the nature of the life events described, they are simultaneous. Since the text of the letter is compiled by the author precisely at the moment of the event. In view of this, they contain an impression of details that may not be recorded in other types of sources.

Scientific knowledge of the source value of ego-sources was formed gradually. In the middle of the twentieth century. For the first time in theoretical source studies of the Soviet period, literature was published in which letters were considered as a separate type in the system of classification of written sources. According to the nature of the publication of those years, the authors were divided into two groups: the first part was largely concerned with the development of issues of critical analysis, classification and identification of the specifics of private letters. The second group, represented by archivist-historians, tried to

justify the importance of completing archives with letters of appeal from citizens and including these documents in the State Archival Fund of the USSR.

For example, in the scientific publications of L.N. Pushkarev [3, p. 22-30], where a unique classification of historical sources was proposed, which were divided into seven main types. The difference between these groups of sources, according to the author, was expressed in the method of transmission and coding of information. According to the author's scheme of types of historical sources, letters were classified as different types of written sources.

Soviet source scientist M.A. Varshavchik, the author of the general method of analytical and synthetic criticism of historical sources, drew attention to the external and internal signs of studying a source. According to his methodology, external criticism (analysis) consisted of a step-by-step examination of important research questions. An important task was to identify the reliability of the information given in the source, its usefulness, scientific objectivity, comparative and logical criticism of the document [4, p. 319]. Internal criticism (synthesis) requires the formation of a group of various sources on a chosen topic, comparison of scientific facts, assessment of the reason for creation and the logical connection between various sources. In the modern period, the author's methodology has been improved, and each researcher applies his own approach to document analysis.

In connection with the above, the study analyzed front-line letters stored in state archives and museums of Uzbekistan as a phenomenon of the domestic culture of written communication between individuals during the period under study. Studying letters as historical sources makes it possible to feel the feelings and thoughts that inspired soldiers to victory, to learn about the heroic exploits of people in battles and in rear work.

During the research, we studied letters stored in the National Archives of Uzbekistan, state archives of Andijan, Bukhara, Namangan, Fergana, Samarkand, Khorezm regions. As a result, out of more than 5 thousand identified letters, 3928 were analyzed, written by 6590 authors. Depending on the number of authors, letters were divided into individual and collective. In collective letters, the number

of authors ranged from 2 to 100. The most massive in terms of the number of addressees was a letter signed by 93 persons. This is a letter addressed to the Uzbek people from Uzbek soldiers of the South-Western Front, published in May 1943 in all central newspapers of the republic and read on the radio of the Uzbek Radio Committee.

According to the author, front-line letters are divided into individual and official. The first group is the correspondence of front-line soldiers with family and friends, and the second is letters from division commanders, the party, the people, workers, collective farmers, and the intelligentsia. Each letter has its own text algorithm. In particular, individual correspondence expresses a feeling of longing and concern for relatives who remained behind the lines. First of all, letters from soldiers are a message to relatives that “you are alive and well!” During the war, the fighters actually did not have time to write long texts. This was due not only to the use of time free from battles, but also in the dark trenches and dugouts, the soldiers had time to write a short message home. In addition, there was a shortage of office supplies, as confirmed by preserved archival letters. The main means of writing were graphite pencils and very rarely ink. The material was postcards, sheets from notebooks, school notebooks sent from the rear as part of gifts. In contrast, official letters convey appeals from military leaders and the party to soldiers and people, and provide brief information about heroes and their exploits. For example, the individual parcels sent as gifts to thousands of Red Navy soldiers, commanders and political workers of the sponsored ship “Marat” on behalf of the workers of Tashkent on April 25, 1942 included 10 envelopes with papers, a notebook and a pencil for each soldier [5, p. 34]

Speaking about the language of letters, it should be noted that a significant part of individual letters written by Uzbeks to relatives and friends were written in their native language in the Latin alphabet, and official letters were mainly in Russian, then translated as necessary into other languages. This was due to the established wartime censorship. The letters were written by people of different ages, professions and life experiences. As archival materials testify, in order to

strengthen the connection between the fighters and the rear, a systematic sending of meaningful and vivid articles by leading workers of the republic and chronicle material about Uzbekistan during the days of the Patriotic War was organized to the Main Political Directorate of the Red Army for publication in front-line newspapers in the Uzbek language. In addition, special issues of the republican newspaper were published with articles by major party and Soviet workers, scientists, representatives of the arts, noble workers and collective farmers, as well as front-line soldiers [6, p. 198-199].

A statistical analysis of official letters stored in the National Archives of Uzbekistan revealed that a significant part of them was sent to the editorial offices of the newspapers “Kizyl Uzbekistan” and “Pravda Vostoka”, as well as to the Uzbek Radio Committee. In particular, out of 3,928 letters written in 1941–1945, 1,884 (48%) letters were sent to the radio committee, and 1,763 (44%) letters were sent to newspaper editors. (Appendix 2). Moreover, these letters were written mainly in Russian, which emphasizes the existence of appropriate permission to publish them in the media.

Considering that the text of letters from a linguistic point of view has been studied relatively fragmentarily, the issue of analyzing the context of front-line correspondence remains relevant, taking into account their language, slang, ethnicity, as well as the emotional state of the writer. It is these factors that reflect thinking, perception and memory. Such an approach when studying personal correspondence helps to draw conclusions about the life and universal values, ideas of the fighters and his relatives. The texts of the letters tell about the difficult roads of war.

The classification of letters by gender is based on the division into two large categories: 1) a story about the past or instructions intended for descendants; 2) letters compiled in the process of personal or public life, in order to meet current needs that have arisen as a result of economic, political, cultural activities [7, p. 41]. Along with this, by studying the general features of politics characteristic of the war era, in the conditions in which the texts of the letters were compiled, and

the mental state of the individual, one can understand the motives that prompted the author to write the letter. The most important aspect of the study is also taking into account the time period of creation of the source. If a letter is written at the time of an event, then the degree of reliability in the assessment of events and the author's conclusions are more objective than a text composed a certain time after the event. Of no small importance when studying personality in letters is the gender, character, and age of the author. When assessing the author's involvement with the events described and at the time of writing the text, one should also pay attention to the degree of education, the environment in which the author was brought up, his social status, socio-religious views, his participation in the events reflected, his understanding. All this allows us to understand what underlies the source - a witness - an eyewitness or a reteller - a carrier of information.

The researcher's task is to accurately determine his own tasks, his assessment of the essence of the origin of the letters, and the criteria for assessing the authenticity of the identified sources. He must perceive these sources as a factual phenomenon of that time, a memory of the past in a peculiar interweaving of times. At the moment of events and when writing the text of the letter.

The next task of the letter researcher is a textual analysis of the material aimed at establishing the degree of its reliability. To do this, according to generally accepted research approaches, it is necessary to study the history of the creation of the source text. Collect a complex of different sources and conduct a comparative analysis of information. At the same time, it is necessary to distinguish originality from the editorial changes to which official letters intended for publication on the pages of leading newspapers were subjected. Comparison of the author's manuscript with the published text of the letter will help to identify the presence of existing discrepancies, errors made in dating, listing names, describing places and events.

The texts of the letters reflect the specifics of the situation, object and subject described by the author. During the period under study, correspondence in the context of the conditions and circumstances of the wartime was the only means

of communication. It helps to study the author's feelings, thoughts, emotions, experiences about specific people and circumstances. At the same time, in studying writing, it is important to understand the motives for writing it. To do this, it is necessary to identify its functional significance. In personal letters, she expressed herself in suppressing feelings of separation, melancholy and expressing concern for loved ones. Thus, in his letter, soldier Kotlerovsky thanks the Uzbek team for the assistance provided to his family, and also provides interesting facts about the daily life of soldiers: "...What can I write about my life? Right now, for example, I am sitting in a dugout on the front line, our artillery and aviation are sending gifts to the Fritz - from which the fields are strewn with their corpses. We front-line workers owe this to the rear workers. The rear provides us with magnificent guns, aircraft and shells and delivers them on time. There is still a little time left to fight. The main task has already been solved, our land has been cleared of fascists, all that remains is to finish off the fascist wounded beast in its own den. And this task will be brilliantly completed in the near future. Kotlerovsky, October 14, 1944." [8, p. 27].

The individual system of meanings of the author of the letter, reconstructed within the framework of the subjective semantic space, is not complete and does not exhaust all manifestations of the personal psychology of the serviceman. It allows you to see some of the touches of the addresser's psychological portrait at the time he wrote a letter to the extent that an epistolary source can capture in its content the contradictions of denotative and connotative structures. At the same time, the personality of a front-line soldier is considered as the bearer of a certain picture of the world, represented by the linguistic consciousness of the author, and his writing as a recorder of individual meanings and meanings expressing this picture.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the concept of front-line epistolary discourse is directly related to the analysis of the specific reflection of the sensory-emotional sphere of a person in war. The study of the discourse of personal feelings on the pages of front-line

epistolary sources presupposes its understanding as a unique linguistic practice characteristic of a person in war and reflected in letters.

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