

**Literary Projection of the American Cowboy as the Us National Hero**

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**ABSTRACT**

The article touches upon the legendary era of Frontier in the history of the USA and the hope to construct truly democratic country. The lifestyles of Frontier’s conquerors and Wild West’s cowboys are described in short. Attempts are made to analyze the American cowboy’s image and mode of his life through the literature.

The purpose of paper is to represent different views of foreign and local scientists, researches, historians, publicists as well as writers about Frontier’s conquerors and cowboy’s images as national selfhood and national pride of Americans.

Frontier gave Americans the hope of the opportunity to realize into life intimate dream. The dream is to build a just harmonious successful country, democratic state and provide rightful and wealthy life. As a result of expansion into the West the genre of American western emerged. Even though this genre is imitation of the Middle Age novels about knights it was considered as rough creation of pop culture until the middle of the XX century and many researches did not pay any attention to this question. The compulsory element of this genre is the presence of the figure of warrior represented by the image of Indian.

The amount of westerns and cowboy novels which created their own subject, range of problems, chronotope, system of heroes, provided a hero which was between the savagery and civilization, counteracted the violence and at once produced it for new state and even for his benefit is enormous.

Author draws a conclusion that changeability of cowboy’s image together with contradiction of historical reality proposed by Hollywood stereotypes are of style dominant in cowboy’s novels. In spite of complex genre syntheses and frequently unfinished plot of analyzed novels about cowboys they have composable unity and genre integrity made by the cowboy’s presence. But these texts are often in contrast with fixed American mythologema of the hero-cowboy by Hollywood.

**Keywords:** Frontier, Cowboy, Vaquero, Wild West, Sombrero, Lynch Law, Western.

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