

**LINGUISTICS**  
**(specialty 10.01.01)**

***Chernov A.N. Alexander Wolf of Gaito Gazdanov: return to death***

The article reveals one of the mysterious character of Gaito Gazdanov's prose. The question is about the image of Alexander Wolf and its function in the figurative system of the novel "The Specter of Alexander Wolf". The author newly deciphers ideographic and mythological meaning of the Alexander Wolf's name, reveals cultural parallels with the ancient Greek texts, medieval Western and Slavic legends and myths. Coloristics and metamorphoses of the Alexander Wolf's image are interpreted in the mainstream of the werewolf infernality theme. Allusive and intertextual parallels of the key episodes of the novel with the Christian eschatology are revealed. The connection of images with the return motive is shown. The return category becomes return to death which denies vital movement and eternal life.

Key words: Alexander Wolf, image, specter, werewolf, myth, return motif, stiffness, semantics, return to death.

*Moscow pedagogical*

*state university. Moscow, Russia*

*August, 4, 2013*

---