

RECREATION OF CHERNOBYL TRAUMA IN SVETLANA ALEKSIYEVICH'S  
*CHERNOBYL'SKAYA MOLITVA*

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ABSTRACT

Little has been written about the literary methodology of the contemporary Belarusian writer Svetlana Aleksiyeovich. The main purpose of this thesis is to investigate how the aesthetic manipulation of factographic content in Svetlana Aleksiyeovich's *Chernobyl'skaya molitva* aids Aleksiyeovich in her stated goal of creating a "closer approximation to real life," while secondarily positioning Aleksiyeovich within the literary background of Belarusian and Soviet dissident writers of documentary prose and providing an in-depth analysis of the narrative structure of *Chernobyl'skaya molitva*. At the heart of the methodology of *Chernobyl'skaya molitva* is a bifurcated structure I call "literary traumatic space," which is a modification of Michael Rothberg's concentrationary space as described in *Traumatic Realism: The Demands of Holocaust Representation*. The emotional impact of Aleksiyeovich's *Chernobyl'skaya molitva* is greatly increased through multiple representations of irreconcilable trauma (as portrayed in "literary traumatic space") positioned one against another within the text.