

## PHILOLOGY

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### **Symbolic meaning of Sevastopol in the emotionally colored discourse of the frontline epistolary heritage of the period of the defense of the city 1941–1942**

The article reveals the symbolic meaning of the city in the discourse of the period of the defense of Sevastopol 1941–1942 as a semantic sign of the morale of the fighters. In the letters of fighters from the front, the city appears as a subject of active struggle, experiencing tragic times along with its defenders. Identification with the legendary Sevastopol, which has a deep sacred meaning for the Russian mentality, gives fighters the moral strength to fight. These experiences are reflected in the texts of letters created by the defenders of the city, revealed during the discourse analysis. The identification of fighters with a symbolic hero city, expressed in epistolary discourse, contributes to maintaining a high moral and strong-willed spirit in the conditions of constant assaults undertaken by the fascists. By creating the illusion of a completely peaceful life in Sevastopol for readers, the fighters are more likely to maintain self-confidence in victory.

**Key words:** epistolary sources, symbols of resistance, discourse analysis of letters, the meaning of the image of a place, Sevastopol as a symbol of defense.

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