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Aesthetics of Periphery and Border

**(To Selected Aspects of Periphery and Border Phenomenon in Slovak Literature
of the 20th Century in Central European Context)**

Abstract

The dissertation deals with selected aspects of periphery and border phenomenon in Slovak literature of the 20th century in Central European context. In the preliminary chapter *Border* the author focuses particularly on selected texts by Central European writers which are thematically set in the Eastern Carpathians. This radically multiethnic region is considered to be one of the relatively independent cultural areas of Central Europe by the author. Narrative perspectives of a stranger, outcast, migrant in combination with the themes of border and conflict between vernacular and alien are characteristic for the literary image of the Eastern Carpathian border area in the 20th century. The author looks at the way the literary appearance of this area is ideologically deformed in the works of individual authors. The writers (mainly Czech and Polish) who do not come from the Eastern Carpathian border area use characters of strangers to reflect on the relationship between the modern and the traditional. Autochthonous authors often make use of the stranger characters to depict the area's self-colonial efforts in relation to the referential dominant cultures. We can follow how this cultural referentiality has been changing during the region's history from the original Austrian-Hungarian cultural framework through the frameworks of individual national cultures to Central European or European cultural framework accented by the current cultural policy.

Afterwards, the author considers how the journey and pilgrimage influence the identity of the characters and narrator in the analysed novels and short stories of Rudolf Sloboda, Pavel Vilikovský, Yuri Andruchovytch and Andrzej Stasiuk. On the one hand, the journey over the borders is seen as a symbolical picture of the novel's characters, on the other hand the journey is shown as a substantial element of their self-understanding and transformation of their own identity. Author indicates some important differences between some canonical writers of Slovak prose of the 20th century and contemporary young prosaic generation.

The chapter *Second city* focuses on semiotic status of Košice in Slovak and Central European cultures and illustrates the problems of relationship between "centre" and "periphery" on the story of literary magazine *Krok* published in Košice in 1966 and 1967.

The last chapter deals with some specific aspects of border and periphery, focuses on relationship between periphery and centre in social literary field (Bourdieu) (an example of "Slovakian" papers of F. X. Šalda), bifurcate borderline function of the *Ľ. Štúr* in contemporary Slovak literary discussion or age limit as an initial "lyrical situation" in one poem of P. O. Hviezdoslav.