

Abstract

The desintegration of the USSR, the resulting release of censorship, and the related publication of earlier prohibited texts, as well as the new character of the book market entirely transformed the shape of the literary field of the nineties. This thesis concerns itself with a specific segment of the professional literary production of this period. With its topic, this work aspires to contribute to the serious research of the little explored postcommunist period in the Russian literature.

In order to assess and interpret the evolution of opinions in this period of time, the chosen method is the one of commented overview of literary criticism and of literary-theoretical texts published mainly between 1986 and 2000 in Russian publications (mostly in so-called „thick magazines“). The thesis focuses on studies interested in the work of the middle and younger generation of the Russian prose writers, and more precisely on studies concerning the structural aspects of the literary situation in the nineties.

On the background of the specific cultural and social situation, the method of the ample commentary is an appropriate way regarding how to interpret the literary theorists' basis of thoughts and opinions, and at the same time how to affect these experts' relationship to the new tendencies in the Russian literature.

Through a critical assessment of a wide range of professional articles (from religious-oriented to postmodern), the thesis tries to present the context of the period and to distinguish three controversial themes that lots of literary experts focus on: (1) The role and status of the middle and younger generation of prose writers in the literary field of nineties. (2) The so-called Russian postmodernism as a specific phenomenon. (3) The variable theoretical reactions towards the increasing pluralism of the literary scene. Moreover, synthesizing yet unstructured material works means that it is possible to understand these professional literary texts such as a specific epilogue to the previous phase of the Russian social, cultural and literary history.

Taking into consideration that the present thesis tries to capture the main phenomena and to put them into the wider context of the period, it can be used as a base for further research on this topic and perhaps even as an instrumental material for the study of major trends in the post-Soviet literature and literary criticism as well as theory.

Key words: nineties, literary criticism, prose, post-Soviet literature, so-called Russian postmodernism, so-called thick magazines.