

Abstracts

Volume IV, no. 2(8) /2013

Research Articles

THEORY, HISTORY AND LITERARY CRITICISM

The Theandric Relationship and Its Aesthetic Metamorphoses in Romanian Metaphysical Poetry Between the Two World Wars

Sorin Ivan

Abstract:

The relationship between man and God is a strong and fecund poetic topic, which marks the Romanian poetry between the two world wars. It is a major theme of the poets grouped around the *Gândirea* magazine, on the background of the literary and spiritual current of Orthodoxism, especially for poets as Nichifor Crainic, Vasile Voiculescu, Ion Pillat. A special case is Arghezi, one of the greatest poets of Romanian literature. The theandric relationship is a constant theme of these poets, which lies, at least in certain periods, at the core of their work. In Arghezi's case, it constitutes the very axis of his existence and poetry. The archetypal model of human communication with God are the Psalms of the Old Testament. The Orthodoxist poetry keeps the spirit of the Psalms, in poems which affirm, praise, pray to God, lit from inside by the light of faith and hope. Sometimes, these poems achieve mystic accents (Voiculescu), in outstanding aesthetic objectifications. Arghezi recovers the biblical species of the psalm in the Romanian modernist poetry and consecrates it as a lyrical mode with a great poetic potential. His psalms do not have in common with David's Psalms but the man – God type of addressing, being, in spirit, to their antipodes. Arghezi's Psalms translate poetically the gnoseologic and ontological experience of the man who seeks God, begs for His answer, who wants to believe, but on a rational basis. The Arghezian faith needs certainties, which never come. Arghezi's Psalms are poems of seeking God, of doubt and metaphysical longing, of an unanswered search. The theandric relationship in Arghezi's universe means the loneliness and abandonment, the fear and despair of man in front of death and nothingness, reproach, rebellion, violence, blasphemy, nihilism, extreme moods and attitudes in his relation to divinity. With Arghezi, the tragic intensity of the existential experience generates remarkable effects on the aesthetic level, by a series of masterpieces of Romanian and universal poetry.

Keywords: theandric relationship, communication, communion, psalm, mysticism, nihilism, aesthetic metamorphoses

Rewriting Fiction. A Neo-Victorian Approach

Ecaterina Oana Brîndaș

Abstract:

The contemporary, multi-dimensional fascination with the Victorian past has been mirrored in a proliferation of so-called neo-Victorian novels. We witness a seemingly-increasing number of authors that participate in, and contribute to, this fascination by recreating the Victorian period in their fiction. The present article focuses on some of the major neo-Victorian rewritings and the ways in which they (re)-explore, (re)-construct or (re)-imagine Victorian fiction.

Keywords: Neo-Victorianism, trends, rewritings, novels, Victorianism

Failed Masculinity in Jonson's *Epicoene* and *Volpone*

Wisam Kh. Abdul Jabbar

Abstract:

This paper examines Renaissance representations of failed masculinity in Ben Jonson's two plays *Epicoene* and *Volpone*. Jonson employs dark comedy to mock society's most austere and revered gendered subjects. He subverts aspects of the Renaissance ideal image of masculinity, which is shaped by a patriarchal society that constructs masculinity in relation to gender, sexual desire and social status. This paper explores how Jonson subtly utilizes two characteristics of black humor, namely amusement through repulsion and pleasure from wicked pranks, to ridicule falsely imagined ideals of Renaissance manhood.

Keywords: Dark Comedy, Ben Jonson, Masculinity, Gender, Renaissance

Myth and Tragedy, Fatality and Failure in the Destiny of the Realistic Character – *Ion* by Liviu Rebreanu

Liliana Danciu

Abstract:

This study proposes a unique interpretation key for a novel considered classic in Romanian literature, a novel which seems to have nothing new to offer concerning significance. However, a valuable work cannot be depleted, on the contrary, it will be open to new interpretations and controversies beyond time. Such a work seems to be "Ion" by Liviu Rebreanu, which is not a simple rural novel, and, even if it were so, this "rural novel" offers nowadays many unexploited significances in this direction, too. Ion appears in this study in his grandiose mythological dimension, taking part subconsciously to the great cosmic drama; he is a civilizing hero, who copies the sacred gesture of God creating the world, assuring in this way the perpetuation of life in the endless circle of life and death from that moment on until the present time.

Keywords: myth, Marduk, sickle, land, civilizing hero, Mother Goddess, circle

“Third Culture” Critical Tools

Cornelia Coşer

Abstract:

The applicability of technical instruments to literary texts in view of their critical appreciation has already been demonstrated. Nevertheless this article is the first attempt to use such instruments outside the domain of science fiction, for an approach to mainstream literature. The ENV Model and the STC Operator, both developed within a theory of inventive problem solving, are used here to study literary genres, to construct and deconstruct previously applied critical labels. They are proved to be efficient tools in a less biased way than traditional criticism.

Keywords: TRIZ, OTSM, ENV, STC, literary genres

LINGUISTICS, STYLISTICS AND TRANSLATION STUDIES

The Electronic Pronunciation Dictionary. A Help to the Foreign Learner?

Rodica Hanga Calciu

Abstract:

The pronunciation dictionary of the 21st century (whether EPD or LPD) covers both British and American English, includes main pronunciation and variants and an accompanying CD-Rom. The investigation of 76 words taken from Longman Pronunciation Dictionary (3rd edition) has shown that there is quite often a mismatch between the pronunciation recorded and the IPA transcription. The richness of information seems to have complicated things for the language learner.

Keywords: electronic dictionary, pronunciation, IPA transcription, variants, mismatch, foreign learner, empirical study, opinion poll

The New Language of the Tower of Babel. English – Openings and Challenges in Communication and Knowledge

Sorin Ivan

Abstract:

Today's globalized world is the New Tower of Babel of humanity. It updates in the collective consciousness the memory of the unity of civilization before the collapse. This unity was expressed essentially by a common language and was destroyed with the confusion of tongues as divine sanction. The memory of the unity is also manifested in the actual civilization's tendency to recover the linguistic unity of humanity. The first step towards this unity was made: English became an international language, spoken across the globe. English is now the language of the entire planet, a *lingua franca*, that transcends the linguistic diversity and makes the linguistic unity and unity in diversity possible. It is the language of the globalized world, the language of the New Tower of Babel. Knowledge of English language, the communication skills in English at a proficient level represent today a necessity not only subjective, but objective as well. English is the language of universal communication, the global communication instrument, therefore its knowledge becomes an obligation for the communication among people, institutions, organizations, nationally and internationally. Given that most of the knowledge of the world is expressed in English, that it is the language of ICT, English is an open door to the world of knowledge, a vast universe, in continuous expansion. Knowledge of English, therefore, offers essential benefits and openings in communication and knowledge. Study of English in terms of efficiency, pragmatism and performance remains a fundamental challenge for the education systems, for the higher education institutions in Europe and in the world. It is a major challenge in the process of achievement of the Knowledge Society in the globalized world.

Keywords: Tower of Babel, globalized world, linguistic diversity and unity, common language, English, communication, knowledge

SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

A Potential Theory-Based Approach to the Rehabilitation Strategy of the Historic Centre of Sibiu in a Postmodern Perspective

Guttman Szabolcs-István

Abstract:

The historic centre of Sibiu is an obvious example of the complexity and generosity of the mediaeval urban space, well preserved until nowadays. Beyond "statements" and nice "thoughts" regarding the knowledge of the inherited space, documentations and the urban renewal projects received in Sibiu a deadline – 2007. The "action" of testing and applying the complex renewal strategy makes the historic centre of Sibiu the first postmodern model in Romania.

Patrick Geddes's diagrams regarding the theories of urbanism and real life can be an efficient working tool, even in the urban renewal area, to check the proposed strategies, respectively for the actual successes accomplished in this field. Geddes's diagram shows the evolution of the built frame in the circle of life,

ACTS through FACTS and THOUGHTS to DEEDS. Therefore, we propose a theoretical overview of the renewal methods of the Spirit of the Place (Genius Loci) in Sibiu.

Keywords: urbanism, Patrick Geddes's diagrams, the Spirit of the Place, postmodern perspective, interdisciplinarity

Religious Tradition and Human Behaviour

Mihai Handaric

Abstract:

This article presents the close relationship between the religious tradition and the community of faiths who practice it. Starting with a definition of tradition, we intend to show that it influences the behaviour of the community. In this sense, the model used by Alasdair MacIntyre in his book, *Three Rival Versions of a Moral Enquiry: Encyclopedia, Genealogy, and Tradition* (Nôtre Dame Ind.: University of Nôtre Dame Press, 1990) was taken into account. However, our approach was different, trying to show that *tradition* has the main role in influencing human actions, along with other factors, such as: *reason* – called by MacIntyre “the encyclopaedic method”, and *the use of force* in influencing human behaviour – called by him “the Genealogical approach”.

Keywords: tradition, influence, community, MacIntyre, encyclopaedic method, genealogical approach

The Expressiveness of the Human Hand and Body

Liana-Cecilia Bărbos

Abstract:

Along the times, the human body has been intensely signified, socio-culturally shaped and governed each time, whenever a new episteme was installed. In relation to a given historical moment and in accordance with its worldview, each society undergoes a long process of understanding and assuming corporality. In this research, we intend to draw some of the force lines of the body – art – reality relationship in terms of its settlement into a coherent, integrating system. Emphasis will shift from the whole to the part, i.e. whole body to hand – as one of the centres of a strong composition, since in visual arts terms it is able to develop a constellation of gestures and behaviours, which represent genuine reading keys.

Keywords: hand, human body, phenomenology, visual centres

Viaje a las entrañas de un pueblo-continente... La teoría civilizadora y el pensamiento identitario latinoamericano del siglo XIX

Alina Țiței

**A Journey into the Depths of a People-Continent...
The Latin American Civilizing Theory and Identitary Thinking of the 19th Century**

Abstract:

The fruit of a commingled essentialist-constructivist process, Latin American identity can only be thought of in terms of the dialectics *I ≠ Other*, geographically and ideologically transposed into the antinomies *Europe ≠ America* and *civilization ≠ barbarism*. In this paper, I aim to demonstrate briefly that, despite the efforts to qualify it as purist, the racial-ethnic identity, in particular, suffers from an equally profound influence of both the indigenous factor and the European one. There is undoubtedly an Indo-Iberian-African substrate at the basis of identity, which certainly cannot be excluded or ignored; nevertheless, I believe that European ethnic and racial elements (other than Hispanic) also had a significant contribution to its crystallization. In this context, I refer to the *civilizing theory* of the 19th century, a thesis defended by the enlightened positivists, which proposes a reassessment, in the genuine Western spirit, of the Latin American cultural paradigm by eradicating retrograde and barbaric traits from the continent and by incorporating an allogeneous value system of Anglo-French origin.

Keywords: Latin American identity, Other, alterity, cultural synthesis, 19th century, civilization, barbarism, European, modernity