

Habilitation Thesis

Abstract

Performative Approaches to Literary Discourse: from Intersemiotic Translations to Posthumanism

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The habilitation thesis with the title “Performative Approaches to Literary Discourse: from Intersemiotic Translations to Posthumanism” is a synopsis of my academic itinerary since the defence of my doctoral thesis in comparative literature (2004). The doctoral research necessitated five years of documentation and conception (1999-2004), with the assimilation of a complex comparatist and interdisciplinary bibliography. The thesis was published twice: in 2003, *Eroismul eminescian (Eminescu’s Heroism)*, Perpessicius Publishing House, and in 2010, *Codul lui Eminescu (Eminescu’s Code)*, Victor Publishing House. My research intended to establish some interdisciplinary lines of interpretation by crossing the borders between literature, philosophy, arts, anthropology and theology and striving to reconsider Eminescu’s poetry and theatre in the comprising frame of European and American romanticism.

Beginning with my doctoral thesis, my career has developed along many directions, the first being the consolidation of the comparatist research, which resulted in the publication of the book *Homo Imprudens* in 2006 at Muzeul Literaturii Române Publishing House.

Besides interdisciplinary approaches, I have constantly been interested in specialized explorations into the fields of aesthetics and literary hermeneutics. This line of research stimulated the writing and publication of other two books: *Anticanonice (Anticanonicals)*, Tritonic Publishing House, 2009, and *Comunicare și creativitate. Interpretarea textului contemporan (Communication and Creativity. The Interpretation of Contemporary Text)*, ProUniversitaria Publishing House, 2014. The scientific intention that underpinned these two volumes was founded on the new modalities of building the literary canon in the context of axiological relaxation and of the democratisation of selection criteria used to devise the canon.

The new literary experiments were the subject of the analyses conducted in *Comunicare și creativitate. Interpretarea textului contemporan (Communication and Creativity. The Interpretation of Contemporary Text)*. At the time, *post* paradigm was vertiginously replaced by *trans* paradigm. In *trans* paradigm communication plays a role which becomes more and more important and it appears as a polyhedral concept (Emilia Parpală, 2009). The new taxonomic modalities are based on hybridised axiological criteria. Literature is the result of the communication flow between the participants in the reading act. The message constantly asks for feed-back, in a circular representation, as if we evolved in the field of “generalised public

relations” (Bernard Miège, 2000). The dissemination of the results of this research took place at many conferences, but also in prestigious cultural journals: *Familia*, *Luceafărul*, *Literatorul*, *Steaua*, *Observator cultural* and many others.

The exhaustion of postmodernist paradigm and the experiments realised in the field of digital literature in the last two decades stimulated me to study the new stylistic developments which derived from postmodernism or contradicted it. In *Estetica inumană. De la postmodernism la Facebook (The Inhuman Aesthetics. From Postmodernism to Facebook)*, Tracus Arte Publishing House, 2013, I analysed cultural trends like performatism, post-postmodernism, postmortemism, New Sensibility and so on and so forth. I also studied the modalities of building a democratic canon by including the “minor” genres: thriller, science-fiction, fantasy etc. An individual analysis was dedicated to the literary manifestos of the 90s and (post)2000: the delirionism, the chimerism, the fracturism, the utilitarianism and the boyarism. The study of paratext in the books of 2000 generation suggested me the connexion with the theories in communication and reception studies. The book also includes critical approaches to literature in the virtual environment, in the blogosphere and to hyperliterature.

In 2014 I published *Cultural Communication. Approaches to Modernity and Postmodernity*. I analysed here the similarities and distinctions between the British modernism and postmodernism. Besides works of the studied writers (D. H. Lawrence, Virginia Woolf, Samuel Beckett, Malcolm Bradbury, David Lodge, Harold Pinter and others), I also used components of cultural studies with reference to these two periods.

Interdisciplinarity implies an increased interactivity too. With the intention of clarifying the more active role played by theories of communication in the literary and cultural realm, I published in 2014 *Take the Floor* at Tritonic Publishing House. In this book I analysed the various types of communication, the mission and the aim of communication, the virtual and interpersonal communication.

For better understanding the interpenetration of humanistic sciences, with the purpose of outlining a complex aesthetics, contemporary with the new communicational possibilities, I made incursions into the fields of translation studies and semiotics. The consequence of these was *Morpheus: from Words to Images. Intersemiotic Translations*, published at Tritonic Publishing House in 2016. Assuming as the starting point of research the concept of *ekphrasis*, I studied the transfer of signs between heterogeneous systems, the incongruent equivalences, the imagetext, the collaborative and transnational translation, the pictorial translations, the intersemiosis at the level of concrete poetry, the video and sound poetry, the culturemes and programmatic music. The sequel of this research was included in the multi-authored book *Language in the Digital Era. Challenges and Perspectives*, De Gruyter Academic Publishing, 2016.

Besides individual research, I edited and commented the volume *111 cele mai frumoase poezii Nichita (111 the Most Beautiful Poems Nichita)*, Nemira Publishing House, 2013.

Within the academic environment I contributed as a temporary expert at the project „DIPLOMACY” – program masteral în Diplomație Culturală, Contract POSDRU156/1.2/G/138721 („DIPLOMACY” – master programme in Cultural Diplomacy, POSDRU Contract 156/1.2/G/138721). The courses I delivered within this project were gathered

and published under the title *Lobism cultural (Cultural Lobbyism)*, Mirador Publishing House, 2017.

The plans for developing and enriching my professional career will follow two directions: 1. the direction of modern and contemporary British and American literatures, 2. the line of inter- and multidisciplinary studies. Among my future projects there is a research on the topic of posthumanist influences in British and American novels in the 20th and 21st centuries (authors: Ken Kesey, Chuck Palahniuk, Don DeLillo, Julian Barnes, Ian McEwan and others). Simultaneously, I work at a volume of literary interpretations of the poetic output of some contemporary American and Canadian writers (Ange Mlinko, David Baker, Seymour Mayne, Jerome Rothenberg, Ilya Kaminsky, Martin Woodside and Katie Farris) from the points of view of discourse theory, theories of communication, cultural studies and ecocriticism.

An additional project is related to reception studies in connection with the theory of performance. This approach implies the analysis of virtual literature and of *intermediality*, which involves a configuration of the aesthetic act at the intersection of plural artistic environments and between various communicative actors.

I am going to disseminate the results of these researches through the international conferences I shall participate and through those I shall organise. The first conference I shall participate in will take place at the University of Complutense, Madrid, in May 2017. I shall carry on the dissemination process at the University of Lund, Sweden, where I shall teach for the next three years. Last but not least, I hope to have the chance to collaborate with the future PhD students at „1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia and deepen the inter- and transdisciplinary research area in the fields of literary studies, cultural studies, discourse theory, theory of performance and posthumanism.

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