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MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION "1 DECEMBRIE 1918" UNVERSITY OF ALBA IULIA FACULTY OF HISTORY AND PHILOLOGY

COORDINATES OF THE IMAGINARY IN SORIN TITEL'S PROSE

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SUMMARY

KEY WORDS: Sorin Titel, imaginary, psychoanalysis, psychobiography, travel, loneliness, crossing spaces, safe spaces.

Roland Barthes speaks of two kinds of reading, one that "ignores the language games" going "streight to the joints of the anecdote" and another reading that "does not go over anything", that "weighs, adhering to the text [...] capturing in every poin of the text the asydenton, that splits languages". Standing before the books of Sorin Titel, we can not use than the second type of reading, and what we seek to highlight from this process of investigation, of mergering with the text, fighting with it, are *The Coordinates of the Imaginary*.

The choosing of the topic is motivated by an attempt to broaden the interpretation of Sorin Titel's prose, and the timeliness of this paper is to apply the psychoanalytic method to investigate 'the universe of second degree."

The scientific nature of the thesis is given by the bibliography topic. On the one hand, history, literary studies, essays, reviews, encyclopedias, dictionaries of authors of literary, symbols. On the other hand, imaginary thesis, articles and interviews by Sorin Titel, published in journals or in volume. Also used critical studies, aesthetics, literary theory, or Romanian or foreign, in interpreting literary texts.

The research follows a route from the general to the particular, and the methods used were provided by Gilbert Durand, Gaston Bachelard, Charles Mauron, Jean-Jacques Wunenburger and Corin Braga. Thus, we divided the work into three parts: The Context of the literary work, The Architecture of the Prose and The Coordinates of the Prose.

First, we follow a monographic route that seeks to show the place of Sorin Titel' prose in Romanian literature, focusing on its modernity or, more specifically, on narrative techniques, the construction of the subject, the characters, artistic similarity to other modern Romanian and universal literary works. We bring before the reader each volume separately, revealing its substance, our desire being to initiate the reader, especially the least familiar with the work of Sorin Titel.

The first part has two chapters: *Overview*, with subsections *The Interrogative Condition of the literary work*, *The Literary Debut*, *The excitement of being modern*, and *From the empirical ego to the fictional ego*. *An Exercise of Psychocriticism*. This part deals, in general, about the social, political, cultural context of Sorin Titel' debut, the way his literary work was received by the public and literary critics. It provides information about the modernization of fiction in the twentieth century, about the techniques and visions about the new novel, knowing that he was a good writer Sorin Titel knowledge of innovations in literature, the spirit of his time.

Then, we get acquainted with his personality, we look for the man Sorin Titel and especially we analise the infer sequences inspired by the biography, that became fomouse in his novels, such as premature birth details, faces and personalities of grandparents and great-grandparents, mother joviality, expulsion University of Bucharest, which I compared with information from people who knew him and wrote about him, such as Livy Lark, Cornel Ungureanu, Iosif Titel, writer's father.

The second part is divided into three chapters: The Evolution of Sorin Titel's prose, The Baroque Faces of the Prose and The Narratological game. The Ages of the Narrator.

The first chapter traces the evolution of Sorin Titel's prose, from a stage of the search, which includes volumes of short stories, *The Tree* (1963), *Noble and Sentimental Waltzes* (1967), and the novel *The Possible Return* (1966), where the author presents the life of the common man, of the laborer, of the collectivist or peasant; it is an exploratory stage, perseverance in a modern style, the new novel, which includes *Lunch on the grass* (1968), *Night of the innocents* (1970), *The long journey of the prisoner* (1971) at a stage of full maturity, the integrated large books, tetralogy: *The Far Away Country* (1974), *Bird and Shadow* (1977), *The Passing Life* (1979), *Woman, behold thy Son* (1983). If the first volume is in the spirit of Alain Fournier, Saint-Exupéry, in the stage of

maturity, his writing is another, more refined, more secure. He led away formula of the new novel, so he returned to the classics, to Melville and Chekhov, seeking to entangle itself in writing as well.

Sorin Titel keeps, however, what he learned from the modern writtings: epic flow discontinuity, involuntary memory, alternating narrative voices.

In this second part, we follow other architectural elements of the work, namely its baroque features. We note that, like baroque art, Sorin Titel's prose reveals a world of abundance, shadows, curved lines. At composite, novels, stories, chapters of novels are "arabesque", "curls" of a single utterance, they are parts of the book. Even narrative techniques construct a complicated design, but individual homogeneous. There is a diffuse light surrounding the characters and leads them to feel constant fear. Live life to the show, but one that assists, outside, in a hidden corner. They are waiting natures, weak, that does not resist sharing a powerful destiny and inner conflict. Dreaming of another world, beyond twisted columns of the temple is located, but the steps we are always follow the same curve that dramatic return to where they left.

It is true that there are many and varied images in Sorin Titel's prose building space, we can speak of a celebration of the senses smell, of the look, but these are just masks that hide a Baroque soul, one extremely lonely and sad soul. Describing the world-show sequences are designed surrogate who dreams of a shadow out of the stands isolated. It's a form of lying to himself with various tiny moments of happiness. True happiness stay forever denied them.

Probably the most Baroque character Sorin Titel's prose is the mother. There is a curved line, invisible, joining all the mothers of the novels. There is a serious tone in the destiny of each. Mother is always living for her family, for the joy of her children. She works hard, she suffers, she has hopes for her children. She forgets to fight for her own happiness.

In another chapter we are inventorying the narrator's ages and the identities that it borrows: childhood (with stances: frustrated child, the child who contemplates, the child that seeks justice), youth (and here we employed narrators in two types: a young idealist and past-ridden young), old age (old innocent, wise old man and the old show). We see Sorin Titel's prose is not an adventure of the story, but, following the new novel is "an adventure story." When telling, the writer makes an expressionist exercise looking at the characters. Unwilling to break too much of the storyline, it only highlights the defining features of his character that we customize, such as the sequence "- I believe, chime in notary in Temeresti wife, a woman and dry a very big nose, that a child should be allowed to boarding to learn the brunt. "very rarely uses dialogue line to alert the reply introducing a character. The propensity inserts narrator's words in stories, creating an

alternating vocals. There are many interpretations of the story, there are several tell her stamps. And time is chosen as the instrument of writerly game. Using modern techniques that interrupt the narrative flow and introspection, as flash-back, the writer creates a sense of ambiguity. The reader should be careful to find the other end of the skein winding the story.

As in Faulkner, the *Sound and the Fury*, where there are four different speeches of the same "history" in *The Passing Life* we also meet at least ten speeches. They belong to each characters converted into narrators: Ana, Nusca, Maria, Gorun, the three elders from Margina, Cornel, Desideriu, the director, which overlaps impersonal authorial voice. Person narrators change from one chapter to another, from the person I and III, the second person in the chapter entitled Desideriu. And how to put together the story is always different, depending on the age of the narrator, sometimes jovial, sometimes surprisingly open and sometimes reflective, confessional. The same process is found in the far country, bird and shadow, Woman, behold thy son.

The voices that come up the ramp and "stories" are dynamic, versatile. They have more age and their inference in speech held together the destinies of the characters, the set traces the logical thread of impersonal narrator creates a sense of authenticity. Under the guise of the narrator reached old age are an experienced person, who tells the young and energetic

is jovial and sad truths about child witnesses childhood and existence.

The third part of the thesis, *The Coordinates of the Imaginary. Opera between poiesis and aisthesis*, is an "inside look", so we structured this part into four chapters: *Introduction to imaginary, Searching the lost paradise.* Highlights of imaginary geography or the dialectic circle Hidden metaphors in prose and The Migration of the characters in the Fiction Country.

In the chapter that opens this part we look for the "sources" of the imaginary. In an interview in 2003, taken by the translator of the volume *The Philosophy of the Images*, Jean-Jacques Wunenburger considers that: "Imagination has become a kind of summary of all that has to do with image and imagination and what was considered fiction, product, work imagination as a faculty of the unreal, to speak as Bachelard. And precisely because the term "imaginary", became a syncretic word, he began to play the symmetrical pair of rationality; imagery related to everything symbolic representation process with all the mythical narrative processes and therefore all efforts by the human mind invents and develops respect, in a way that is not adjusted any logic or science."

Therefore, the imaginary literary work denotes a concurrent world reality in which the writer, on the one hand, it closes itself in images and symbols, and on the other hand,

regulate their relations with the outside world, in the sense that it brings out all that bother him. The task of the literary critic is to guess the key points of literary creation, to find images of the artist's vision of the world referential objectives, and to try by analysis (semiotics, hermeneutics, psychoanalysis...) to open them. There are therefore many ways of investigating artistic imagery. I chose, of these, in the third part of the paper, the psychobyografical method, convinced that "psychoanalysis has made critics reach some tools that can be x-rayed more creative psyche. It is possible that the formations observed with this endoscope to be illusory. But sensitivity, skill, attention to discover, to separate and analyze such formations are real wins. Without them we would be much poorer in understanding and we moved with infinitely less flexibility on land almost ineffable and continuous transformation. especially in the case of intricate creators."

We start from the premise that all artistic endeavor aims unconscious recover "the lost space" of childhood whose center is the village of Banat, Margina. Although the name of his native village (The Edge) sends to the idea of exile, alienation, Margina is not such a place. On the contrary. As Humulesti of Creanga, Siliştea-Gumesti of Marin Preda Yoknapatawpha of Faulkner or Marquez's Macondo, Margina is the *axis mundi*. With affective memory, Sorin Titel exploit this territory, monographical reveals the world as other researchers have observed. Authenticity is verified by

plasticity job descriptions, juxtaposed with that melancholy admiration resulting from a heart filled with joy return to childhood: "The boys scattered the first - was a plum orchard just off the railroad - the trees with black trunks and girls remained gathered in a circle around the train or in wagons with their mothers who now had finally sit on suitcases instead of solid wood or huge bales. Falling down its mostly trees flowers and fresh air smell sweet and harsh budding leaf, the flower of the grass withered by the sun and cruel. It was a smell that makes those guys without them knowing it run like horses and stealing girls also part of an anxiety so painful, that they were as if ready at any moment to burst into tears." Sorin Titel restore the world he left, whether we refer to childhood or to the Banat where he was born and raised. Between childhood and Banat memory space exists an isomorphism.

From the love of his home there were born mother Ana, old Raveca, old Cuca, Poldi or George. They arise in the work to create a certain authenticity that comes from reality writer of his biography. These beings not only lead the reader, but the writer himself in time and space, literary work is essentially a gate pass, sometimes, a meeting place. We are at the "borders of the Empire" in a society defined by ethno-cultural diversity, which is centered around the village Margina, and, around it, Cosava, Tomesti, Faget, Lugoj, Caransebes. There are places full of life, spirituality, there is, as stated Adrian Rachiery "a repetitive scenario", a matrix that

also mark not only the Romanian space (a "matrix style" in terms of Blaga), but also how to live there again. We recall itinerary characters when they go to the fair or "to the city", the exact route that they respect on every journey, and how the story, after their typical, as does Ghiuri explaining the origin of tattoos which furrow the body. The children of this world are born in large families, there are parents, grandparents and sometimes great-grandparents, when they are ill they suffer of tonsillitis, appendicitis and scarlet, they grow and go to school at Faget and Lugoj then they go in the military stage at Szeged, after that they fall in love and go through stages of initiation, they die early. Them all seem to live a single life, of that character par excellence, where we find the very spirit of its creator.

Considering the social imaginary, which the writer recomposed "paradise lost", the native Banat, Sorin Titel creates his own mythology. Metaphors are the secrets of his prose trip (as a form of repayment of an image that feels an inner longing, the search itself, run, sometimes his own), loneliness (feeling that emerges dominant, a supra-opera) house, garden (perceived as secure spaces) station, waiting room, coffee inn (understood as non-places, in which the individual is anonymous).

The journey is a personal myth of the writer. It may be that there is a certain complex of alienation that underpins it. Frequent wanderings family (the writer's father was a clerk and his job made him move very often); in his childhood, Sorin Titel, had to be marked by this overgoing. We might think that it was almost never really home. And this deficiency is transmitted its characters.

Even the act of writing can be seen as a journey, a search of his own identity. In this aspect, we find a Sorin Titel which, to understand himself, goes down into his memories. This explains playback opera names of his biography and character building on the pattern of those in reality. With this form of travel, he seeks to understand the past in order to understand itself at present.

On the other hand, the journey is of the character himself who migrates from one book to the other, it is presented sequentially, then disappears to appear later in another writing. It is the case of John, of Julia, Mary, characters present, with the same features, in the stories, and in the novels. But there are many characters traveling, literally, and then the road becomes the author's own mythology.

As a frequent theme, loneliness has its own paradigmas. On the one hand, loneliness establishes in the absence of love, feeling that fulfilles, perfectes the man. The lack of love creates a deep pain, a longing for life and people. One man longs, loneliness is a disease of the soul. In this case, the characters are lost due to mistakes committed, beloved ones; They get to experience what might be called Gavrilescu complex. But there are those who have always been

misunderstood some of fate, who lived pseudosentimente and accepts his loneliness as a punishment (I would think they have complex "steppe wolf" using words and its meanings as are given by Herman Hesse, the famous novel). A third category of characters, those who never fail to fulfill their loves, their remaining platonic stage, enter into what we call complex Werther. Opera Sorin Titel radiografiază this feeling loneliness. Characters contained most times the sorrow of loneliness, loneliness creates a book. But they are inspired by the biography of the writer. There are, finally, the faces of the author himself.

Chapter *The Migration of the characters in the Fiction Country* emphasizes the idea that Sorin Titel's characters are constantly making. They are not created from the beginning "round" but they become with each new volume that writer published. We note that in general, women are hardworking and choleric, and men are living in their shadow, they are complicated natures, they see life as a struggle. Information about Julia, about Ion, Eva Nada, especially about Mother come gradually in thin strokes. Portrait of each can be done only at the end of the work in its entirety. Sometimes strokes of different colors overlap, meaning that the information we receive about a certain character contradict from one book to another, such as the story of a young man of John and Julia. Then, realizing the mistake, the narrator is exculpatory: "Who has dealt the story of what happened in

reality? Where longer meet those witnesses ready to shout out loud that things happened so that the author in mind, adding to it here and there, that does not always tell the truth? "

If Margina is the center, when it comes to space in Sorin Titel's prose, the mother deity is the one who orders the good of the world. The child sees it as a painting, for her whole being exudes a mystery, an unnatural charm you. As Nică from Creanga's *Memoires* wonders how mother coagulates water with "two legges of a cow", Andrei wonders how much power and energy mother has: "Mother is back into the kitchen, throw the rolled rugs on the floor, sighs wiping his forehead with sweat, turn the tap and wipe their hands afterwards foot pin gown hanging near the door, a ragged old coat, yellow with little flowers blue." The love for her rises up from work in the soul of the reader. As in the *Chronicle* of Lucian Blaga, mother is seen in the book of Sorin Titel as Eine Urmutter.

Besides it, the other characters seem simple actors. Their psychology is of a provincial who accepts his fate, who lives with bustle and joy within the circle. We find, however, and some dissatisfied, misfits who dream of the horizontal openings. Trying to grasp the paper, to decipher the world coordinates take their existences, but, especially, coordinates of their souls because they are evidence of the hidden self of the writer. We take as a landmark the novel *Bird and Shadow*.

Here, the characters can be easily trapped in types, examples of characters' family.

These images are those that build "the face" of Sorin Titel's character, a man that filters the world through his own soul, stopping for himself all that its most problematic. He lives with the pain of life and aware of the shortcomings of their own shortcomings. It is an unfortunate that agrees to play in this drama that is his life. Awareness is especially dramatic by accepting that life is beautiful just because they are under the sign of destruction, the "great passage". Being reflective, the character silently climbes the mountain, carrying with him the stone burden, like Sisyphus and, like it, he learns about its transience.

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