

Opinion

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Maria Kalinova's book "Exotopy: On the External Context of Discourse" does not follow the models of the traditional literary study. It is not dedicated to a specific literary work or literary tradition; it also does not discuss a literary-theoretical problem according to the established stereotypes of literary-theoretical debates. The text is oriented both to literary theory and to literature. It keeps his distance from both, being at the same time involved in their situations.

This "point of view", which is "external" and at the same time "internal" is in fact the theme of the book. The term "exotopy" denotes a radically external position, which is in a way internal, because through it the object to which this position is external becomes visible, understandable. Among the merits of the work is that it does not "close" the concept of exotopy in a particular area, but keeps it "open" to different fields of knowledge.

The notion of exotopy unites in an interdisciplinary way many research areas. In the book, it is introduced through the dialogue between two fields - literary theory and psychoanalysis - and two authors who, at first glance seem different: Mikhail Bakhtin and Jacques Lacan. However, the text is not limited to these areas, it also enters politics, sociology, philosophy, contemporary literature, translation theory, even economics. The concept of exotopy allows Maria Kalinova to be effectively involved in the current debate on the death of literary theory, started by Galin Tihanov in his book "The Birth and Death of Literary Theory: Regimes of Relevance in Russia and Beyond." According to Kalinova, literary theory is "exotopic" to the dominance of the market, which allows it to resist that dominance and be a support and a defense of certain authors and works who do not want to obey it.

I am convinced that Maria Kalinova's book will be an object of many interesting discussions. I appeal for Maria Kalinova to be awarded the academic title “Associate Professor” in the scientific field 2.1 Philology.

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