



SUMMARIA

LINDA KALJUNDI. Literary Estonia – History and Story

Keywords: history of Estonian literature, literary history, cultural history, historical memory

The article discusses the tradition of writing the history of Estonian literature and, from the point of view of a historian, aims at offering some new perspectives regarding both re-conceptualising the role of literary history and the broadening of its territories. While the discourse and function of the traditional history of literature has been problematised widely during the last decades, making the question "is literary history possible?" almost inevitable, in the 1990s in Estonia the regaining of independence and de-sovietisation rather strengthened the rewriting of traditional national history as well as cultural history. In this discourse, established during the birth of the Estonian nation in the late 19th century, the Estonian literary history is considered as solely the history of literature written in Estonian. While there has been a new rise of interest in the modern Baltic-German literature, the Latin and low-German literary culture of the medieval and early modern period has been left out of the literary histories at its own right. Among others, the postcolonial perspective could bring some fruitful insights into the material (e.g. the cultural colonisation in the Middle Ages, or the development of the local elite identity through creating an image of the indigenous low class as the other), as well as into its use and abuse in the modern period. Differently from this forgotten culture of the "alien elite" the canon of Estonian literature has encompassed the religious and popular writings in Estonian from the 16th century onwards. Yet, next to being considered as the immanent pre-history of the Estonian literature, these psalms, newspapers, adaptations of pious and didactic novels, etc. could rather offer magnificent source material for studies from the perspective of cultural history and anthropology. And last but not least, the studies of the history of Estonian literature as a part of cultural memory and a realm of memory could also offer a fresh perspective on the discipline, especially considering the heavy

dependence of Estonian historical consciousness on fiction.

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MARIN LAAK. Critical Writing in the Space of Literary History: Problems of Text and Context on the Example of the 1920s

Keywords: text of criticism, R. Barthes' theory, reception history, Estonian literary history of the 1920s

In the Estonian culture the term *kriitika* is traditionally interpreted somewhat differently from its Anglo-American counterpart "criticism". Estonian literary history bears strong traces of the German tradition, which differentiates between criticism and literary scholarship and regards criticism in its narrower sense as a source of literary history. In modern Estonia, literary criticism (with its numerous genres such as review, problem article, essay, lampoon, feuilleton etc.) receives continuous attention, but the content and volume of the concept has historical implications. The Soviet period, for example, served to amplify the institutional role of criticism as ideological interpreter and medium.

Drawing on R. Barthes' discussion of work and text the article regards criticism as a text resulting from a general process of interpretation. The article suggests that the critic could be regarded as a historical reader who has presented his interpretation in the form of verbal text and critical writing. Such a text could be analyzed by simultaneous consideration of meaning-creating contexts, which could be attained by implementing the concept of "context field". Analysis of the context fields of a historical text of criticism requires a context-sensitive approach to the critical text regardable as a reception process and *écriture* coming from a certain socio-cultural environment. Considering the small size of the Estonian cultural field and its having been investigated quite thoroughly, such a complex approach even looks feasible enough, in particular if the semantic relationships taken from the cultural sphere

are used in the most up-to-date software developments and if the earlier texts of literary criticism are made accessible in digital form.

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AGO KÜNNAP. More on the Origin of the Negative Particles *ei*, *ep* and *es* in Estonian and Other Finnic Languages

Keywords: Finnic languages, verbs, negative simple tenses, negative particles, symmetric and asymmetric negation.

As a rule, negative simple tenses of the Finnic verb consist of two components – a negation word and verb. Inform other than the imperative form the negation word is usually an *e*-stemmed negative auxiliary verb that agrees with the subject only in person and number, while the main verb mostly lacks such an agreement. According to common understanding the forms *ei*, *ep* and *es* are "particled" forms of the negative verb in 3PSg, originally having a temporal marker. The most extensively spread particle of the three Finnic particle-type forms of the negative auxiliary verbs – the particle *ei* – occurs in the whole Finnic area except the Votic language. The particle *ep* is used in all Southern Finnic languages (Votic, Estonian and Livonian). The particle *es* occurs only in Estonian languages (North and South Estonian) and Livonian. In Finnic negation the agreement of the main verb is rather an extensive phenomenon, which often is, however, based on a development of recent local origin.

The use of the negation particles *ei*, *ep* and *es* shows that originally they have not necessarily been 3PSg forms of the negative verb. If, however, they were not finite forms, it is pointless to search them for temporal markers in them. It is interesting to mention a conclusion by Trond Trosterud: in Uralic languages there is a definite relationship between the occurrence of the copula of 3PSg predicate constructions and the preterite form of the negative auxiliary verb – they exclude each other. Consequently, it can be supposed that in Finnic languages as languages with copulas the negative auxiliary has no preterite.

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MARE LOTT, AILE MÖLDRE. Financial Support to Book Publishing in the Estonian Republic 1918-1940

Keywords: book publishing, Estonian Cultural Endowment, cultural funds, financial support to culture, book history

The article concentrates on the development of supportive measures used to foster book publishing in the newly independent Republic of Estonia during the 1920s and 1930s. The text is based mainly on archival documents as well as on research of literature. The most important role in supporting the publication of books in Estonia was played by the Cultural Endowment that was found in 1925. It was subordinated to the Ministry of Education, who had been promoting publishing already before the establishment of the Endowment. The Endowment preferred to subsidise creative and academic societies who published their research results. Publishers also received some support, mostly in the form of long-term loans. The Ministry of Education had to approve the lists of books to be issued with their financial aid. Although the books had considerable scientific or cultural value, they did not always sell very well. Therefore publishers were not always able to pay back the loans. The government, however, was quite favourably disposed towards them and accepted books for redemption of the loans. As a result, libraries were able to acquire more books of high quality.

Besides the Endowment subsidies publication was commissioned by various ministries and cultural funds like, for example, the Fund of Cultural Propaganda, established in 1928. This fund subsidised translations of Estonian fiction and books on Estonian culture issued in foreign languages. A special body for publishing textbooks for universities was organised by the Estonian Academy of Sciences in 1938. Thus a system of support had been formed by the end of the 1930s, which could guarantee the publication of full-value and diversified literature.

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