

Theses of Ph.D dissertation

„Mirrors teachings by a collection of stories”

Adsignification of emplexum by János Taxonyi

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The aim of the thesis, delimitation of the subject

This thesis is examining the possibilities of intendment of the exemplum which is one of the most important interdisciplinary domains for international and for Hungarian scholars of this subject. Trying to delimitate the affectual mechanism of exemplums by using the presentation of textual designing methods of a Hungarian jesuite author from the modern age, called János Taxonyi and to prove by the analyse of historic mirrors teachings from the 18th century, the fact that the modern literary history can be an important perspective of indendment concerning the historico-cultural anthropology and the folklorism of the respective era.

Due to the changings of paradigm that passed off literary history, the litterature's exrta-aesthetic genres, or less obvious elements in the point of view of aesthetics, could be advanced, the so-called adscititious literature.

So the main subject of our dissertation, the parables as written memorial source, holds in store new possibilities. By their investigational disciplines, many scholars: literati, folkorists and historians are examining the rhaethoric roots of this centuried method, a peripheric genre, functional textual entity, the tradition of variorum editions, the heritage of popular culture, projection of mentality-ideal- and social hisory.

The piece of János Taxonyi was the most important and the most popular parable of morals of that epoc – *Mirrors teachings of men's virtue and the divine truth I-II. Id est: Rare and collectioned stories about all acts of men, including good and evil ones, and the divine gift of truth for those who are think the right way. A collection of pieces of some authors, divided in three parts and containing different morals for the illumination of mankind. (1740., 1743., Győr)* The praxis is composed of two books and every volume is splitted into three greater chapters. One part assimilates a dozen of stories illuminated by three different morals. The morals have enarration and examples too and so we get 360 stories (short ones and longer ones as well) that try to give a piece of advice for wanderers to live a more virtuous life that God has already indicated.

János Taxonyi explains what do these parables („Tükörök”) in the „Elöl-járó beszéd” (Prologue) make for, as follows: „In this book, there are rare and selected parables of real stories that are eternal, and not made of fragile glass... Reading them, every person can realise the beauty and the ugliness of its conscience. The difference between these can be find in the

parables showing the fact that they can not help the person if he does not read them carefully.”

According to our literary history, the piece of János Taxonyi is a well-constructed and able compilation but this dissertation does not emphasize this point of view of textual design. The piece of Taxonyi is defined as one moment of the 18th century’s cultural memory. Studying the relation of men and the texts, we have been involved in the dialog of the scholars of literature and of the creators of culture, in a philologic point of view. We follow the linguistico-hermeneutic aspect proving that the text itself exists only when it gains reception: not the text itself but the stories’ language and the possibility of explanation is going to be the subject of our literary research. By the complex study of Taxonyi’s opus, we would like to underline the fact that the exemplum does always gain meaning in its context, according to its correct application and in the delimitation of its structural aspect. The origin of exemplum-texts is not our subject, rather its use and its aim are in the center, but this kind of literary approach is incompatible regarding the intention of representational and productive-aesthetical conception of literary works, rather it prefers the aspect of incorporation and effectual aesthetics.

We start the study of János Taxonyi’s conceptions and aspects of the exemplum by a historical résumé: there were many experimental researches in order to clarify the meaning of the notion „exemplum” and to enumerate its functional characteristics, whereas the approaches were acutely different. That's one thing for sure, it is not incurious to overview these in a chronological order too and then reach to the actual meaning and use of the notion based on the most important and abundant international achievements of researches. Following the advancement and the morphosis of the parable, we can see the historical way whose milestones are important stages of the Hungarian literary history too and they lead to the diverse texts of the mirrors teachings „Tükörök”.

After the schematic indrawing of János Taxonyi’s eruditional perspective, we attempt to describe and map the author’s unique exemplum-handling practice through the complex analyse of structural and compendia of mirrors teachings via the presentation of source-handling, linguistic and stylistic characteristics and via the essential of appropriation centered example use. Especially, we consider as task the study of the possibilities of explanation inhering in „Tanúságok” (Morals): aspects of functionality and the types of narration, identity

and canonic referent effects in the texts, the apparition of tradition and creation and also the presentation and reorganisation of their forms of existence.

The aim of our author is to teach, to give advice of moral by parable examples: presenting the morals of men like history of intramundane sins and virtues, while the justice of God as the power to get salvation. The scale of Taxonyi's examples is definitely rich. It is dealing with every substantial questions of the Christian mirality, but forces to respect of the Ten Commandments in an other way, id est otherwise than the traditional pratic of the Church – by non-canonic, disordered, incredibly profane stories. Besides classical exemplums (biblic, antic, medieval), he prefers to use stories as an example from the Hungarian history and the contemporaneous life. We can observe also the process of the detachment of the recipient group and even the morphosis of the genre: the apparition of belles-lettres and popular tendencies in the textes.

The beliefs, the superstition, the magic and the witchcraft (effective and alive elements of his era) are also part of his collection. This kind of rare and unique elaborated exemplar serves with especially interesting and precious cultural history elements, holds a memory of the authors social atmosphere, traditions and the requirements, the demands, the knowledge of the recipient public of his opus. The folkloristic aspects of Taxonyi's examples and its relation with different folkloristic poetries are going to be studied in a different chapter.

Methods used for preparation

The fundamental thesis of the Tüskés Gábor pursued by the proposed processing needs monographic tradition continues: the author's exemplum-handling is presented by plenty of textual examples.

The development of exemplum and review of the traditional philological, method and the reader-orientated approach of „Tükörök” are a content analyses made by a comparative studies, a pilot computerized statistical program, after a database. A prior knowledge is essentially based on a bipolar (exemplum-concept, and Taxonyi's era) research point of view - which is necessarily limited - designed to test a succession of points. Thus, selecting potential research areas, (also of course the boundaries), not directions, nodes, and so we built the above-mentioned research methods.

In our study, first – following the modern inductive descriptive poetics - we can consider the variation of communication, a part of the cultural memory of the author, which is in a

constant contact with other cultural discourses, an anthropological text individuum and age, of the way of thinking of mankind and its body.

The text of this report in two directions locates their contact with the author's individuality, the exemplum themes' update, intended effect management aspirations and expectations of the host (age, narrower, wider community) embodiment design language, characteristics, genres interactions, modifications and reasons for its presence. Second, the stories' source of exemplars (subject, theme, characters, places and temporal aspects, tangible, social and cultural traditions, customs, forms of communication, etc.) and hermeneutical application possibilities.

The concept of folklore and historical manifestations of Peter Burke, and it extends traditional concept of Klaniczay Gábor's model assimilated in our view their own research. The traditional logic cultural organisation types of "popular" and the boundaries of the points of contact resulting intercultural communication. Divided into folklore, we might find their way and its conditions, but semi-folkloristic such as the exemplum's religious folklore. János Taxonyi is a double layer of representative of cultures, such as a party, the mediator, recorder of the majority and elite lesser traditions and greater ones as well. These two texts contain elements of cultural tradition, and the description / interpretation by the copyright of their relationship can be read from them.

Listing of results after the theses

1. János Taxonyi and his life was not dealt by a great interest of literary research: it is a centuried monograph, an data-filled work, but a modern interpretation of research purposes in another, a broad cultural perspective into the life-work, in particular, which is considered the main opus, „Tükörök”.
2. The literati, folklorist, historians use an isolated, specific method instead of an interdisciplinary approach to interpret Taxonyi's collection.
3. János Taxonyi's exemplum is a phenomenon of intercultural communication . In order that any examples can be integrated into an age / persuasion strategies of the author, it must be the same as they represent a combination of systematic ethics. This is the key element of common tradition. This tradition can form a common language articulation. After the parable of the effectiveness of the special role, we attach to a common language, shared traditions, way of

life, which is interpreted, updated, and made alive from a prepared text, and thus became part of a report, giving values of communicational process. In this sense, Taxonyi's work - in particular the testimony his own texts - on the spoken language is used in a every innervated structure, promotes the mechanism by the cultural texts' long-term memory maintenance. The verbatim quotes from a large number and scope are justified by the interpretative function of language.

4. The thesis' textual interpretation of development and implement procedures are the processing of the Hungarian exemplar collection. The organic continuation of the international practice and, secondly, one of the first initiatives of the Hungarian monographic research. The historical and narratological proof through examination, we can see that the exemplum malleability, fluidity of speech of the pledge. This kind of adaptability is the user's continuous mutual communication of the result. We must emphasize, therefore, that the effectiveness of exemplum in each case, from country to country, by period to period should be investigated. Thus, each collection is unique and meaningful self-creative work. (Hermeneutic perspective, content analysis, comparative study) However, studies also showed that the exemplum analogue reflects the structure of human thought tipologic direction as well. The winner of each exemplum, in certain criteria is clearly typisable. (Computer statistics)

5. Function orientated approach. Based on our investigations, we believe that any narrative textual entity of exemplum is considered as works of art, or, if the desired function on moral, religious intentions, where a teaching by example, persuasion, interpretation is used. Thus, the exemplum is always the age, as defined by the users of the term. The parable of the function is defined as vital! If it no longer belongs to a text, it can not even be considered an exemplum.

6. János Taxonyi mirrors history illuminates, demonstrates, and facilitates the understanding of the truth. The exemplum used by the primary purpose of the interpretation of his own age's ecclesiastic truths, in a language of moral teaching, is the primary intent. In our view, the particular aesthetic, creative self-certification of literary line, which works only by Taxonyi's successful translation, adaptation, the mere compilation of view, the absolute need of nuance. We believe that the choice itself, caught in the act of translation and the language of individual freedom in a gesture of interpretation. However, this discretion is absolutely necessary to distinguish Taxonyi's parabolic stories. The current literary research is mostly in

the main text's 72 separate incidental didactic narrative explanations classified, almost ignores it. Thus, it has never occurred to Taxonyi by consciously differentiated, two fundamentally different structure, functional textual entity primarily on the basis of the testimony, texts, authors of interpretation as a specific potential, thereby functioning - live, active - narration investigate.

We do not consider it as a coincidence that the ancient authors' sense of reality, profane and poetic stories of lessons learned in their texts as such a large number is displayed. Here are examples from a place of personal experience is that almost all of these are among the lessons from the main book. Taxonyi's public receives the contemporary truth of God particularly in such a livable and enjoyable way, interpret language effectively to convey.

7. The age of religious rhetoric, didactic practice of the Jesuit author is clearly plenty of live traditional religious argumentation tools, especially in the Bible - the recipients will also agreed as fundament, known and certified - the certification's strength as well. Thus, the two traditions to meet the constraints of copyright, the law resulting from the preachers of double effect is observed in culture of Taxonyi's text writing practice.

8. The exemplum of folklore research, model notion: structure forming device, the grouping system of the principles of reality shows. János Taxonyi 18th century collection of contemporary folklore, vernacular items, poems, and the parable genre contact with each other also investigated the impact of a fertile plain of testing. Generous exemplars are communicating through the communication revealed folklore.

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