Boris akunin’s detective novels in the light of receptive aesthetics ideas

The analysis of literary works from the receptive aesthetic point of view is one of the latest trends in Comparative literature. The dominating idea of this approach – the literary text can be ‘realized’ only in the process of contact between a text and a reader – attracts attentions of many critics and researchers. Due to the receptive aesthetics study any text can become the object of the analysis, including the works of mass literature; as the ideas of the approach break with the conceptions of art dependence on socio-historical context, introducing in the sphere of analysis the reader and the society. According to this approach any literary work is the product of historical situation and depends on the position of an interpreting reader. This approach allows broadening the frames of texts analysis, considering the position of the reader.

The object of our research is the works of popular modern writer Boris Akunin, whose texts are aimed at meeting the needs and tastes of different types of readers. He was the first writer in the tradition of Russian mass literature who decided to create a novel, interesting for the native and demanding reader at the same time. In our investigation we have found out that in B. Akunin’s detective novels original texts are transformed, at times they are parodied, complicated by a number of original subject lines. The prevalence of ‘quote-reminiscential’ model of plot-making is typical for the modern literature, which is connected with the decoding of the concepts: ‘mine’ and ‘borrowed’, simultaneous orientation to the elite and mass reader. For the form of intercultural dialogue, which is carried out in Boris Akunin’s detective novels, the continuation of tradition as well as its ironical reconsideration when the original texts can be easily recognized by the reader, when the texts get new meanings is typical. All the devices that the writer applies in his texts, are of great interest for the receptive aesthetics analysis and deserve more detailed consideration.