

SUMMARY

The monograph entitled *Existentialism and Slovak literature (the interpretation of forms of existential rhetoric in fiction by Dominik Tatarka, Ján Johanides and Rudolf Sloboda)* provides an interpretative and analytical research into contacts of Slovak fiction writers Dominik Tatarka, Ján Johanides and Rudolf Sloboda with main representatives of French existentialism – Jean Paul Sartre and Albert Camus. The primary purpose of the treatise is to make an account of a particular method how existential imagination is applied to the fiction of Slovak writers and how its arrangement and architectonic principles appeal to the reader. Although the discussion of existentialism in Slovak literature after 1945 is based on the issue how existentialism was applied, the underlying issue raised by all of the studies published is whether existentialism was ever applied. Existential imagination is analysed with respect to its role in establishing the content of fiction and its relation to semantic and formal complexity of a work of art. The methodology of investigations into contacts of Slovak literature with existentialism takes into consideration the philosophical aspect of the issue, which is set by the principles of the philosophy of existence. Thorough interpretative analysis of particular works of fiction based on comparative explication of poetological and semantic constants and variables develops the knowledge of the extent and the limits of overlapping areas of the poetics of researched authors, their poetological and noetic standpoints and findings. The conclusion proves authenticity and originality of works of Slovak fiction writers as a result of a critical dialogue with (and not the imitation of) the representatives of French existentialism. A close examination of underlying textual layers of fiction by Slovak authors indicates that identification of Slovak literature after 1945 with French existentialism proves to be a debatable and problematic issue. It is caused by absence of significant concordance in both gnoseological grounds, ideological and philosophical standpoints and the level of expression and configurations of motifs. Despite some correspondence or analogies grounded more in the aspects of terminology than in semantic, compositional or narrative layers, literary and philosophical base of existentialism proves to be very limited to cover theoretical and axiological features of fiction by Slovak writers.