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Title: Continuity and Change in Tatiana Tolstaya's Prose: From Print to

Abstract:

This paper concerns the impact of social media on the literary process and on the status of the writer in present day Russia. The importance of the new format of media will be demonstrated by a comparative analysis of Tatyana Tolstaya's early fiction with her present day publications on the social network service (SNS) "Facebook".

This new means of communication has led to significant changes in the literary space. The new phenomenon of "cereparypa" (internet literature) has emerged. After the invention and popularization of SNS, many Russian writers, including Tatyana Tolstaya, appropriated them as their main publication platform. Special features of SNS (such as their synchronicity, communicativity and intimacy) cause shifts in the stylistics and themes of the publications as well as in the models of the interaction between the writer and her readers. At the same time, other features of Russian literary tradition remain unchanged. The questions, to what extent the Internet and, more specifically, SNS, have affected Russian literature, and what systemic changes can be noticed, are still open.

Tatyana Tolstaya's creative career can offer a good example of the shift towards Internet literature. Being brought up in a literary family, she inherited many features of classical realistic prose tradition and was under the strong influence of postmodernism. Her early short stories are often compared with those of Nikolay Gogol and Vladimir Nabokov. From the beginning of the rise of the Internet she has been its active user, first opening an account on LiveJournal and then moving to Facebook. Significant variation in stylistics, themes discussed and manner of communication with readers, can be noticed. In this presentation I will offer a comparative analysis of Tolstaya's early fiction with her Facebook publications. Using discourse analysis as my primary method I will show the continuity and change in Tolstaya's prose.