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Title: Poetry as dream and dreams in the poetry of Gennadij Ajgi

Abstract:

The paper considers on the one hand the poetry of the Russian poet Gennadij Ajgi as a kind of dream, and studies on the other the dreams in his poetry. The idea that Ajgi conceives poetry generally as dream can be grounded on certain observations by this poet and author of performances about poetical texts and performative acts.

After a short discussion of the history of philosophical and psychological models of the dream, which gives value to possibility and the concept of something beyond reality, and a consideration of Vittore Carpaccio's painting „Dream of the Holy a“ („Il sogno di sant'Orsola“ 1495) the paper takes its textual starting point from a canonical text of Russian dream-literature, from the Lermontov's poem „Son“ (A Dream, 1841) and its deconstruction by Dmitrij Prigov's poem „V doline Dagestana“ („In a Valley of Dagestan“) more than a century later. Whereas the postmodernist Prigov creates the dream of a dream, that is a dream of the second order, which opposes a world of consciousness with a world of unconsciousness, Ajgi tends to eliminate the world of consciousness and its logics. The paper pays attention to the early booklet *Son-i-poezija* (Dream-and-poetry), which already in its graphic presentation suggests the equivalence between dream and poetry but also introduces the idea of an archive of dream-motifs and sound-patterns, corresponding to their elements.

The analysis of representative examples of Ajgi's poems, explicitly containing dreams, is followed by a reflection on the question of the function of Ajgi's dream-poetry in relation to the tradition of Socialist realism and its concept of reality, which is related to a certain model of society and which conceives literature as a mirror of this reality. The reception of Ajgi's poetry by young Russian poets shows that his poems and its poetics played an important role in the period of transition from Soviet literature to its more modern post-Soviet equivalent.