

Literary Hermeneutics - a large vision upon the text

by Victoria Fonari, Chişinău, CEP. U. S. M, 2007

Review

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Abstract

This article represents the book "Literary Hermeneutic" by Victoria Fonari, Ph.D., the State University of Moldova. Hermeneutics, as a researching object, includes literary, critical, theological, juridical, linguistic, psychological, verbal and sociological knowledge.

Literary Hermeneutics is one of the most favoured disciplines. It is venerated both in Homeric exegesis from antiquity and in the improvement of the methodology interpretation of the canonical works, in which a vain moment is the deciphering of texts – the monuments and authors' comments from times immemorial, thus re-establishing a part of the human values. The re-establishing of the connections between the values of the past and their understanding from the present prospect is due to literary interpretation.

The demands of the paradigm of literary and artistic interpretation constitute a basic element which is important both for the writing of academic researches and for the literary values of understanding. It directs the student to scientific works and facilitates the professional activity of teachers, journalists, jurists and translators

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Nowadays, literary hermeneutics is one of the most discussed, but less investigated sciences. As the text determines a fan of interpretative mirrors, the art of comprehension involves a series of optics. Literary interpretation doesn't aim to undecieve the symbols, but to accumulate meanings. The exegetes, in raffles of manuals and scientific books, explain this phenomenon from various perspectives. However, there is a clear necessity for editing a curriculum that consistently, but briefly, involves more concepts about the art of hermeneutics and for providing a comprehensive analysis.

For this purpose, we remarked the book *Literary Hermeneutics*¹, published in Chisinau, CEP USM, 2007, written by Victoria Fonari, Ph.D., (it is the second monograph signed by the same author, and it is the seventh as regards the book). In this study, the researcher proposes a series of interpretations of the term hermeneutics, analyzed in the works of the European scholars. The following examples are relevant: “Hermeneutics is an art which establishes clear rules in interpreting the texts” (p. 15), hermeneutics is the science that relates to “value and to the degree of its ability in interpreting the message beyond the textual forms” (p. 23), hermeneutics – “method that enables us to seize (by comprehension) the intensity and the meaning of the existence lived by the subject during his existence” (p. 44), “Hermeneutics is the horizon of question from the inside which defines the significant direction of the text” (p. 53) etc. This didactic scientific information, together with all quotes characteristic of an investigation, is original as it is presented through the prism of their own vision. Optics combines the experience as a writer, teacher and researcher. The literary critic Ion Ciocan, PhD, professor, claimed in a speech that the survey of hermeneutics conducted by Victoria Fonari is special in that it provides a complex analysis of one’s own perspective, without deflecting from the concepts of scientists in the field.

The theorist Anatol Gavrilov, PhD, Academy of Sciences from Moldova, published in the same year his monograph *Criteria of scientific degree of literary terminology*². The bibliography includes the research carried out by Victoria Fonari.

In other words, the author doesn’t venture with some cheap compilations, but intends to make a relevant and serious research. Victoria Fonari not only renders the concepts of hermeneutics of the major scholars and spread schools (Schleiermacher, Origen, Dilthey, Gadamer, Ezio Raimondi etc.), but also analyzes, reinterprets it and guides the reader towards the real ways of theme comprehension. Most of the times, the author explains the theses of exegetes, referring to the texts of autochthon authors (Aurelius Basil, Ion, Gregory Vieru Nicholas Dabija, Arcadia Suceveanu).

Another strategy is that after each chapter there is a test that provides a personal rediscovery of the artistic texts from the optics of investigated concepts. It constitutes a discussion between the reader and the theoretical aspects, which finally requires a coagulation between the empiricism of knowledge and the

¹ Victoria Fonari, *Hermeneutica literară*, Chișinău, CE USM, 2007.

² Anatol Gavrilov, *Criterii de științificitate a terminologiei literare. Principiul obiectivității. Eseu de epistemologie literară*, Chișinău, 2007.

existential one. This guided communication reveals a vivacity of the strictly scientific text. Thus, the optics of the reader acquires value. The texts for practice are interestingly selected, sometimes controversial, sometimes they reveal the less known side, such as the text of Guatier referring to the drawings of Victor Hugo. And we immediately see the spot of coffee worked by the French writer. This is possible due to the tests and to the accumulated score. Each test involves some questions based on the studied chapter with reference to a proposed text. This very moment imposes to the work a prominent and intelligible allure.

The study made under the scientific and stylistic editorship of the academician Mihail Dolgan, includes a wealthy scientific bibliography. Referring to the ideologies on the concept of hermeneutics, Victoria Fonari, selectively faces, or renders very keenly the theses of notorious scientists: Roland Barthes, Connor Stevens, Jonhatan Culler, Umberto Eco, Michel Foucault, Paul Ricoeur, Gianni Vattimo, Nicholas S. Râmbu etc. This moment increases its value of didactic material, profiling an invaluable expression of infallibility.

The chapter “Value / Kitsch. Interpretative variants” is of a revealing value for the researcher. Here, the reader is given some guidelines in order to distinguish the value of the kitsch. In this respect, there are given a series of scientific theses that come to argue the criteria of the work interpretation and there are offered concrete examples that argue for or against the interpretation of a work. The researcher also moots some individual concepts of European scientists.

However, she mentions that hermeneutics aims to make clear obscure elements through conscious reflection. Then, when analyzing a literary work, it is taken into account the criteria for determining the veracity. In this respect, literary texts can be studied from many perspectives: historical, social, personal, psychological, grammatical, ethnic. Therefore, we must keep in mind that hermeneutics is closely related to the art of thinking, rhetoric, psychology, temporality, autobiography/the life of the author, authenticity etc. On the other hand, the seven types of interrogations of Bloom (literature, translation, interpretation, analysis, synthesis, evaluation), adapted from Sanders, are important in the process of hermeneutic analysis, thus revealing the subtext. However, this process wouldn't have the same effect if they didn't focus on key words: value, interpretation, truth.

So, being an unquestionable value, *Literary Hermeneutics* by Victoria Fonari, remains a valuable book for the young hermeneut. This didactic material guides her to an abysmal world of conceiving some profound values. Therefore, the weight of the exposed truth here is great. This book is not devoted only to philologists but can be applied in philosophy, economics, jurisdiction etc. In other

words, the science of hermeneutics directs a new era of thinking. You can't outface it if you are not ready. This book is familiar by the concept of hermeneutics from different optics and gives a brief empirical investigation of the artistic and critical texts. The work is useful for students, MA students, doctors, teachers, being dedicated to all the fans of hermeneutics.