

Summary

The book is a collection of materials created during the second year of the independent philological seminar Third Literary Research, held in Ufa in 2007-2010. The name of the seminar implies the direction of searching for the ways of text research different from positivist narrow-mindedness and postmodernist arbitrariness. In a free discussion, philologists, linguists, philosophers, historians, psychologists talk over the theoretical grounds for analysis, terminology, and collisions of interpretational methods taking certain philological problems as an example.

The first session deals with the perception by French people of the Russian literary research tradition. The conclusion is that there are a lot of differences between the completeness of perception of that phenomenon in Russia and in France. There are three main stages of literary research for the French: formalism, M. M. Bakhtin and Yu. M. Lotman.

The second session becomes the ground for the discussion of the theory of two types of writers: those who create classical texts and those who create non-classical texts. The former generate their works according to some rational scheme, the latter “move along the level of language”, which means that they are “guided” by the language in their creative work. This theory is considered to be ambiguous and unreasonable to some extent.

The third session combines the question of the complicated history of the Baroque in literary research and the main problems of literary studies in general.

The subject of the fourth session is based on the forensic aspect of Dostoyevsky’s “The Brothers Karamazov”, which, in turn, refers to the interaction between the author and the reader in the space of text.

Two texts (by R. G. Nazirov and T. D. Venediktova) become the starting point for the fifth session’s debates which is devoted to the problem of the reader in literary research. This session contains the debate on the classification of the reader’s perception of text, and conclusions about the “naive” reader and his status. The theme of the reader’s perception was naturally developed during the next session of the seminar, which touched upon the problem of forming the literary canon, its stages and peculiarities and the role of school education in this process.

The session “The Genre of Riddle and Intellect” became interdisciplinary. Psychologist S. V. Scherbakov offered his own vision of the folk genre of riddle during the session and the participating philologists tried to correlate this vision with the traditional context.

The series of sessions concludes with the discussion of the possibility of creating a non-subjective history of literature, followed by several remarks on the influence of historical or personal context on the historical-literary structures.