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Russian Formalist and Structuralist Studies in  
English Translation: A Bibliographical Survey

The Russian Formalists, whose works almost upon publication became a major force in literary studies in Central Europe, had to wait for nearly half a century for recognition in the English speaking world. Although René Wellek and Austin Warren introduced many of the ideas of the Formalists in their highly influential Theory of Literature (1949) and Victor Erlich published the first full-length history of the movement and its theories in 1955 no English translation of Formalist studies had been available in English until 1965 when the University of Nebraska Press published Russian Formalist Criticism, Four Essays, an anthology edited and translated by Lee T. Lemon and Marion J. Reis. The book contained selections from the works of Eichenbaum, Shklovsky and Tomashevsky. However, at the time of its publication the interest in the work was negligible. Similarly, Vladimir Propp's Morphology of the Folktale, published in 1958, was noticed only when Levl-Strauss mentioned it in his writings, and even then its influence was limited to folklorists.

A real interest in Russian Formalism began in the late 1960's under the influence of French structuralists, particularly of Tzvetan Todorov whose works abound in references to Formalist writers. Moreover, Propp's ideas were utilized by Bremond, Gramscis and Genette in their studies of narrative structures. As a result Morphology of the Folktale was republished in 1968 and since then has run into five impressions. The same year, the MIT Press published Mikhail Bakhtin's Rabelais and His World followed three years later by an extensive anthology of Formalist works edited by Ladislav Matejka and Krystyna Pomorska, and L.S. Vygotzky's Psychology of Art with a commentary by V.V. Ivanov. Then, in 1973 the University of California Press brought out Boris Uspensky's A Poetics of Composition, and in 1975 Yale University Press published Twentieth Century Russian Literary Criticism edited by

Victor Erlich. In the same period three monographs on Russian Formalism appeared: Krystyna Pomorska's Russian Formalist Theory and Its Poetic Ambiance (1968), Ewa M. Thompson's Russian Formalism and Anglo-American New Criticism (1971), and Frederic Jameson's The Prison-House of Language (1972).

However, the greatest single contribution to the popularization of Russian literary theories have been made by Ardis Publishers who specialize in Russian literature and criticism. The firm began publishing in 1971 with Russian Literature Triquarterly which has a section devoted to Russian literary studies in translation. Among the first books to be published by Ardis were Boris Eikhenbaum's The Young Tolstoy and reprints of Shklovsky's O teorii prozy and Tomaszewsky's Teoria literatury. In 1973 a translation of Bakhtin's Problems of Dostoevsky's Poetics appeared, to be followed in 1975 by Lotman's Analysis of the Poetic Text (his Lectures on Structural Poetics is in preparation). Their publishing plans also include the translations of two more books of Boris Eikhenbaum, Lermontov and Tolstoy in the Sixties.

In Britain, the interest in Russian Formalism and Structuralism theories had for a number of years been restricted to Slavists. Consequently, it was a group of scholars with a Slavistic background who in 1970 founded the British Neo-Formalist. Among its founder members were L.M. O'Moole, George M. Hyde, Richard J. Sherwood, and Ann Shukman. The works of the British Neo-Formalist Circle were published for the first time in August 1974 as No. 14 of the University of Essex Language Centre Occasional Papers. The first issue of Essays in Poetics, the journal of the British Neo-Formalist Circle, appeared in April 1976. Apart from two articles about Russian theories of literature (R.J. Sherwood's on early Formalist theories and Ann Shukman's on Lotman's Lectures on Structural Poetics) this number contains three articles in which these theories are applied to the analysis of individual texts (G.M. Hyde, Malykhin's Bartleby and Gogol's The Overcoat; D. Musselwhite, Women in Love: a Flawed Novel, and J.M. Kirkwood, On the Problem of Translation with Reference to a Russian Translation of Burns' To a Mouse).

The members of the circle are also active in the field of translation of the original theoretical texts into English. L.M. O'Moole and Ann Shukman co-edit a valuable series Russian Poetics in Translation of which two volumes (with works of Scheglov, Zhukovskii, Lotman, Levin, Poporov and Ivanov) have appeared so far. Ann Shukman frequently contributes her translations of Lotman's articles to Semiotica and her

full-length study of Lotman's writings will soon be published by North-Holland as one of the first volumes in their new series devoted to literary theory.

The Dutch firms, especially Mouton, specialize in publishing reprints of the original Russian texts. One of the few Formalist works in English translation is Zhirmunsky's Introduction to Metrics published by Mouton in 1966. However, three journals appearing in Holland (Semiotica, Poetics and PML) publish almost exclusively works on semantics and structuralist poetics. Since all contributions must be written either in English or in French, these periodicals provide an excellent opportunity for an exchange of ideas among the scholars representing the two predominant varieties of structuralist thought on literature. In the United States a similar role is played by New Literary History published by the University of Virginia.

The growing interest in Russian Formalist and Structuralist theories, accompanied by a rapid increase of the number of theoretical works available in English, and the rise of original research within the framework of these theories seems to suggest a possible change in the attitudes of English and American literary scholars and a movement away from criticism towards poetics.

A Preliminary Bibliography of Russian Formalist and Structuralist Writings in English Translation

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Streszczenie

Artykuł przedstawia recepcję rosyjskich i radzieckich teorii literatury w Anglii i USA. Pierwsze opracowania informujące o Rosyjskiej Szkole Formalnej nie wzbudziły większego zainteresowania wśród uczonych brytyjskich i amerykańskich. Dopiero pod koniec lat sześćdziesiątych, pod wpływem rosnącej popularności francuskiego strukturalizmu, opublikowano pierwsze tłumaczenia prac rosyjskich badaczy literatury. W ostatnich latach ilość tych tłumaczeń poważnie wzrosła, co pozwala przypuszczać, że wpłyną one w dużym stopniu na zmianę orientacji anglosaskiego literaturoznawstwa.

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Językoznawstwo