

Selected aspects of the relationship between religious and artistic discourses in the work of literary art

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It is the novel which is the superior genre that easily absorbs various elements of other literary forms. These forms function as the lower-level components of the novel, for they are not autonomous elements and they can form a unified entity only with the superior system of the entire novel. A prayer is one of the lower-level elements which is quite often absent from novels. A little different is the relationship between a prayer and a poem due to their genre provenance. In such a case there is no superiority-inferiority issue involved. The relationship in such a case is also less definite.

The first part of our work focuses on the definition of such terms as: literature, religion, discourse and art. Then we proceed to our research concerning the coexistence of two types of discourses (religious and literary) in the work of literary art in a situation in which the religious discourse is subordinated to the superior literary discourse. The issue in question is going to be investigated on the basis of two literary texts which make use of religious discourse. The first text is a piece of a novel. It is a prayer of the novel's protagonist. The prayer is embedded in the epic discourse structure. The other text is a piece of poetry which, in its structure, is connected with the Christmas carol genre.

The term *discourse* is used diversely, both within linguistics and other areas of the social sciences. We regard discourse as a particular form of action, i.e., an intentional, controlled, purposeful human activity. At the same time we cannot forget that any type of discourse is produced, understood and analyzed in terms of the context in which it appears. Contexts are not fixed or given, they fluctuate due to the dynamics of a particular discourse and to the changing situations, social groups and cultures within which a certain text may find itself embedded. Therefore, any discourse can also be understood as a dynamic phenomenon made of a linguistic core, i.e. texts that are intrinsically set in their contextual (nonverbal) embeddings. We distinguish three crucial contextual embeddings of texts: situational, social and cultural. Literature in general can be treated as a part of cultural phenomena. Due to that it is regarded as one of the leading factors influencing the creation of meanings in discourses.

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