Zoltán Rédey

Metaphor in modern and contemporary poetry and its possible interpretations

Metaphor. Lyric. Laco Novomeský. Ivan Štrpka. Contemporary poetry. Imagery. Conceptual projection. Interpretation. Sense.

The article is focused on the role of metaphor in 20th- and 21st-century poetry, its aesthetic, semantic as well as cognitive function, measure and way of its presence in the lyrical text – the share of metaphor in the creation of a general aesthetic value and sense of the poem. The author is interested in the possible interpretations of poetic metaphor not only within traditional descriptive-classifying poetological or rhetorical-stylistic interpretive models, but also in a methodologically wider context, e. g. also in the light of current conceptually and cognitively-based theories. In this sense, he concentrates on two main aims or problem areas: 1. an attempt to reinterpret the classically understood poetic metaphor and its traditional theoretical understanding on a synecdochically selected example from Slovak literary modernism or post-symbolism, Novomeský’ s poem “The Thousand and One Nights” (“Tisíc a jedna noc”); 2. in the background, the problem and specificities of metaphor in recent and most recent poetry via concrete illustrative textual extracts from a more widely-understood current author (Štrpka’ s text). The study also touches upon the questions of the pragmatics of metaphor, as a way of constituting the meaning of the poem.