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Abstract

Literature and Psychoanalysis: the originality of the Russian case

Our research began with trying to understand why it was that the thought and methods of Freudian psychoanalysis spread so widely and quickly in Russia. We hypothesized that it was partly due to the contiguity between the language of Freudian psychoanalysis and that of literary studies. To test this hypothesis, we analyzed several studies of literary criticism with a psychoanalytical slant, which well demonstrated this contiguity, thus validating our hypothesis. Furthermore, during our research, we discovered that the Russian school of literary studies, starting from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, had discovered the analogies existing between the language of the unconscious and the language of poetry – an insight that anticipated the later developments in literary studies in the West.

Keywords: psychoanalysis and Russian literature; psychoanalytical literary criticism; *zaum'*, Russian avant-garde and psychoanalysis.