

**Mecanismele progresiei estetice în proza românească simbolistă și post-simbolistă
(Mechanisms of Aesthetic Progression in Romanian Symbolist and Post-Symbolist Prose)**

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Abstract

Through psychoanalytic examination of identity, sublimation and melancholia as a projection of a desired object, we obtained a theory of loss and recovery of the lost object, a paradigmatic model for literary analysis, a model that we applied in Symbolist and post-Symbolist work of Ștefan Petică and George Bacovia. The mechanism of melancholia (melancholia is the word in psychoanalytic theory) gives the artist the possibility to achieve new means of power in relation with the dominant cultural centre, even an aesthetic progression at a textual level. In Petică's work, the spiritual faraway desired object is internalized through imagination, thereby the unobtainable, ideal object can be appropriated. We also have the case, in Bacovia's prose, where the subject does not provide an ideal topos, melancholia is no longer a method to achieve something, it is the end in itself. In Bacovia's work we cannot talk about the loss of a desired object as it was in the case of the previous Symbolist writer, because the desire does not exist, the illusion is denied from the start. The event, the fundamental state, generating action, and dreaming, is missing. The future is a utopia; the only certainty of this world is its pressing, immobilizing materiality, saturated with the spectrum of death.

Keywords: *Symbolism and post-Symbolism's aesthetic theory; sublimation; topos ; melancholia; death.*