

ON FOLK NARRATIVE GENRES: THE NARRATING OF PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

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Abstract

Theories of narrative genres are mainly based on written literature, but there are many cases that for defining types of the oral narrative cannot be content with the features defined genres of literature written narrative. Therefore many times oral narrative genres construction requires a more precise definition and slightly different from literary genre. Life stories, oral autobiographies, or whether only the oral testimonies, are not only products of our experiences that go through our memory and reevaluation, but also always at least to some extent by art. Furthermore they present artistic works as well, and not only linguistically, but also the more complex expectation of genre: of the forms expected within given context and type of communication. On oral narrative genres important contribution to European Folkloristic gave Carl Wilhelm von Sydow, William Labov & Joshua Waletzky, Linda Degh, Annikki Kaivola - Bregenhøj, Sandra Dolby Stahl, Paul Thompson, Barbro Klein etc., who conceptualized new genre in oral narrative called Oral Personal Narrative, as a single unit. On this basis is built theoretical study of the genre of Oral personal narrative, as a single genre present in oral tradition and folklore, as well as in oral literature. In this paper will be brought theoretical concepts and thoughts, which will be argued on the presence of the mentioned genre in Albanian Folkloristic. By giving also samples of Albanian oral narrative and with the help of European folkloristic theory, will be proven that the genre of Oral Personal Narrative presents a single unit in Albanian folk tradition, as well.

Keywords: *oral personal narrative, oral tradition, folk genres, narratology, oral autobiography.*