

Eötvös Loránd University
Doctoral School of Literary Science

Jin, Kyoung ae
Folklorism in the works of József Attila
PhD Thesis

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In my PhD thesis I intend to focus on the relationship of the poetry of Attila József and the popular tendency in Hungarian literature. First I intend to clarify the concept of „népiesség” i.e. popularism. There is a big difference between Korean and Hungarian literary history, so it is very important to differentiate between Hungarian and South Korean, Hungarian and North Korean concepts of popularism.

It is my basic hypothesis that poetic popular tendency in the oeuvre of Attila József has been hitherto underestimated in Hungarian literary criticism, because he has been considered a proletarian poet, i.e. a poet of the working class, so I am starting out from the question of his identity, whether he was a poet of the city or a poet of the village. It turns out that he had a lot of experience in the country, in the village, and he knew a lot about the life of peasants. I divide the early oeuvre of Attila József into two periods, and I investigate both. In his first period he was influenced by József Erdélyi and his interest in folk songs and folk poetry in general. In his first period the common people meant peasantry, poor people for him. In his second period he was influenced by Bartha. In the latter period he rewrote his poems under the influence of his participation in the Communist movement. Even in the poems he wrote anew, folk songs and folk motifs were dominant. For Attila József there was no controversy between life in the village and life in the city, there was no controversy between peasant and worker. His poetry is clear poetry.

In the second chapter of my thesis I intend to show that the concept of clear or sheer poetry was present in Korean poetry as well, but it had a different purpose. Clear or sheer poetry in Korean literature served as a bulwark against North Korean Communist ideology. In my next studies I would find the comparison between the oeuvre of Attila József and that of Korean poets an interesting starting point.

Related publications by the author

József Attila and folklore. In *KACEEB's Proceedings*. The VI-th Annual Meeting. Budapest, Hungary. Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem, 2006. 56-62.

The influence of the accession to the EU: Is it beneficial for the minority or not? Through the study of *Korunk* (Our Age), a Hungarian review magazine published in Transylvania. In *KACEEB's Proceedings*. The VII-th Annual Meeting, Bucharest, Romania, Bucharest University, 2007. 55-65.

Beszámoló a KACEEB hetedik nemzetközi konferenciájáról. (Bukaresti Egyetem 2007. július 10-12.) *Korunk* 2007. szeptember, 121-123.

Kodály és a koreai himnusz. *Magyar Nemzet* LXXI/203. 2008. július 26. 43.