

**Generational recollection and cultural identity in János Kis' autobiography "*Kis János
superintendens Emlékezései életéből*"**

by Kálmán Tóth

Theses of the doctoral dissertation

1. The changes in the canonizational position of János Kis indicate that it is interconnected with the changes of the literary approaches in the 19th century. Approaching the life and work of János Kis with a reception-panorama allows us to outline the genesis of the *Emlékezések*.
2. The *Emlékezések* of János Kis can be expeditiously analyzed if the recent considerations of autobiographical research are taken into account. During the reading of the text besides the use of the knowledge of its source-character, the interpretation which concentrates on the composition can be of great importance. If the literal meaning of the text is not comprehensible, then we have to consider if the chosen conventional way of reading brings us any further. If that is of no use, the interpretation of the text has to be our own independent task. Every discrepancy that arises must be dissolved.
3. The cultural-identity which is generated in the *Emlékezések* of Kis seems to be originated in János Ribini's program about the language-usage in his work *Oratio*.
4. Substantial parts of the generational recollection represented by János Kis are lingo-cultural efforts. His portrait of Kazinczy reflects the image, that was formed in him by his experiences considering him. This shows significant similarity with dominating parts of Kazinczy's self-image.
5. János Kis was aware of the changes in the literary approaches, hence he felt it was necessary to formulate the characteristics of the cultural-identity represented by him in the *Emlékezések*.
6. On the basis of the *Emlékezések* and his other works, a conservative view of society can be reconstructed, that suggests achievability of the ideals of enlightenment and embourgeoisement within the traditional social and political system.