

Abstract

The theme of strangeness has appeared in Julia Kristeva's work both explicitly and implicitly in various forms – as an encounter with otherness, a nonreducible element of subjectivity as well as affect which accompanies this encounter. Kristeva elaborates the concept of strangeness on the background of her own theory of subjectivity, hence discursivity, which is presented in her work. According to her, it is established on the intersection of two incommensurable modalities of the signifying process: the semiotic and the symbolic, while she attributes potential for the former to distort the latter. It is the motive of strangeness that we endeavour to present in the thesis as a connecting line of Kristeva's ostensibly fragmentary reflections on poetic language, female subjectivity or motherhood experience. The theme of strangeness is then outlined as at least one of the key moments through which it is possible to recognize the consistency of Kristeva's thinking (as well as her theory of discursivity/subjectivity), regardless of whether her writing appears at the field of psychoanalysis, literary criticism or political philosophy.

Keywords: Julia Kristeva, semiotic, symbolic, estrangement