

Abstract

This thesis discusses the work of three contemporary Anglophone translingual poets: Ilya Kaminsky, Wong May, and Li-Young Lee. A translingual poem is a poetic text written in a language that is not the author's mother tongue. Translingual literary practice was common in the Middle Ages, but during Romanticism the monolingual literary model became dominant. This started to change in modernism, where new forms of translingual writing subjectivity began to appear, exemplified by writers like Vladimir Nabokov, Eugene Jolas, and later Ivan Blatný. The thesis discusses these writers' works, establishing the connections between the modernist translingual subject and the contemporary one. It then proceeds to analyze the poems of Ilya Kaminsky, Wong May, and Li-Young Lee, looking for the ways in which these authors relate to the literary traditions of their first and second languages through the use of form and poetic content. The thesis also discusses the intermedial quality of their work, as well as how the three poets approach the notion of the lyric.

Key words: translingualism, multilingualism, modernism, poetry, poem, poetics, transmediality, literature, lyric