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FAVOURED AND NEGLECTED GENRES IN ORAL TRADITION

SUMMARY

The favoured genre of the Yugoslav oral tradition is the decasyllabic epic. There are other genres than the epic, but these other genres of the oral tradition can not be easily reduced to the other customary genres - lyrics and drama, because it is not right to uncritically transfer the subdivision of written literature to oral literature. The author distinguishes oral literature from the oral tradition - the oral tradition is a broader concept than oral literature, it also includes oral non-literary forms, those that are not artistic. The difference between oral and written literature is not merely a question of medium, rather these are two literary spheres with distinct systems and generic structures and with distinct ways of receiving artistic messages. The author's intention, however, is not a strict distinction between oral and written literature - he hopes to find a common denominator for both these literatures in human verbal activity. With the help of M. Bakhtin's theory of verbal genres we can work more on the structure of genres as types of utterances and their dynamics and more attention should be devoted to the non-literary verbal genres of the oral tradition - at least as the important verbal context of oral literary genres.

(Translated by E.Elias-Bursać)