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THE AESTHETICS OF GROTESQUE AS AN AESTHETICS OF SOCIAL CRISIS IN THE NOVEL THE MOLE BY BORIS HRISTOV

Abstract

The novel The Mole by Boris Hristov is analyzed from the point of view of the modern theories of grotesque which connect the grotesque as an aesthetic means to a deep social crisis and transformations. The main thesis is that the novel unites the two main types of grotesque by using them to articulate the vision of the relationship between a demonized totalitarian regime and a possible alternative. The first type of the grotesque is used to represent the absolute negativity of the ruling regime and its ideology turned into a mere device for subjugation which causes total dehumanization and loss of all human values. The second one is used to suggest the possibility of a positive alternative, incarnated in a group of social outcasts in the form of inversions between high and low, central and marginal, as represented for the first time in The Gospels.

Keywords: grotesque, hierarchy, crisis, center, marginality