

*The melodramatic mode in the prose of the Greek 19<sup>th</sup> century*

Description and approaching method.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century is a fertile field concerning the prose. More precisely in this period are discussed important theoretical issues on how the romans and short stories supposed to be written and read. The Press contributes in a decisive way to this direction. Articles, critical opinions, theoretical texts, European romans and short stories are published whereas new original works are asked to be written to enrich the Greek literature. This theoretical frame is shaped so as the new Greek writers can be informed on issues of the European and Greek literature tendencies and helps them adopt specific norms in their own works e.g., to create works having an ethical value or combining pleasant but at the same time beneficial content.

Considering all those significant issues mentioned above we will try to approach the melodramatic *mode* and its important effect on the configuration of the neo-Hellenic prose of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Starting from the modern theories and studies which have to do with the genres in literature we consider as modes those categories e.g., *dramatic mode*, *lyric mode*, which feed and thus change the genres at any time and place in all historical eras. For that reason, we will examine the melodramatic mode and its function in the genres of the roman and short story as well as in the movements of Aestheticism, Romantism, Realism and Naturalism in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Characteristics of this mode such as the Manichaeism, the stereotype characters, the fight between good and evil and the triumph of virtue, the restoration of the ethical order and the misery due to external factors and forces are to be detected in those genres and movements shaping decisively their identity and targets.

We will try also to detect the melodramatic mode in the romans and short stories of the 19<sup>th</sup> century taking into account the critical and theoretical texts published in the Press. Simultaneously we would try to prove if the European writers praised by the critics have themselves adopted this mode in their own romans or short stories. That will show us at which degree they serve as models or they influence the Greek writers. This examination offers us the ability to understand the configuration of the Greek

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literal canon, the continuity and the exceptions of this continuity e.g., the reception of the work of Emil Zola in Greece.

Concluding, in order to examine the role and the importance of the melodramatic mode in the neo-hellenic prose of the 19<sup>th</sup> century among with the expectation's horizon we will take into consideration i) the critical and theoretical texts of the era, ii) theoretical works of important European writers in relation to the movements of the 19<sup>th</sup> century e.g., Aestheticism, Romanticism Realism, Naturalism iii) the romans and short stories of the Greek 19<sup>th</sup> century.