

Abstract

In the presentation, basic approaches and concepts of the German reader-response criticism (Constance School) will be introduced and discussed. The thinking of the Constance School followed two basic patterns: one focusing on literary history and “re-writing” it with regard to the criterion of reader response rather than that of pre-established literary periods (represented by Hans-Robert Jauss), and one focusing on the analysis of the reading process (represented by Wolfgang Iser). The lecture will open with a brief presentation of basic concepts and ideas of the Constance School. Main focus, however, will be put on the discussion of selected parts of papers by Jauss and Iser (“Literary History as a Challenge to Literary Theory”, “Indeterminacy and the Reader’s Response”).