

Structuralist Literary Theory

French Structuralism represents a set of primarily literary theoretical approaches between the 1960s and 1980s in France. Originally it grows from structural linguistics of Ferdinand de Saussure and from structural anthropology of Claude Lévi-Strauss, enriched by crucial suggestions delivered by Russian Formalists and others. The main area of French structuralists' interest is centred around theory of narration (narratology), nevertheless, they also deal with literary criticism, anthropology, sociology, psychology, and others. Among others, the most important members of the school are Gerard Genette, Tzvetan Todorov, Claude Bremond, Algirdas Julien Greimas, and, to an extent, Roland Barthes. French Structuralism influenced a vast number of consequent literary theoretical narratological approaches (by developing and elaborating on its terminology and methodology), as well as it also triggered the anti-structuralist theoretical movement known as Post-Structuralism.

Czech Structuralism (The Prague School) is a Czech linguistic, literary theoretical, aesthetic and semiotic school which comprised a group of scholars, mainly European and Czech, in Prague especially in the 1920s and 1930s. Although Czech structuralists adopted some ideas directly from Russian Formalism, they also borrowed from other sources, such as (de Saussurian) semiotics, communication model, functionalism, holism (mereology), aesthetics, phenomenology, and others. Czech structuralism enriched various contexts of a theoretical inquiry, such as literary history (developing literary structure), theory of fiction (poetic reference), aesthetic function, norm, value, and the thematic built of literary artworks.