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Όψεις της νεοελληνικής αφηγηματικής πεζογραφίας, 1700-1830. Ο διάλογος με τις ελληνικές και ξένες παραδόσεις στη θεωρία και την πράξη
[Aspects of Modern Greek Prose Fiction, 1700-1830. The dialogue between Greek and foreign traditions in theory and practice]

INR/ NFR, Library of the History of Ideas 7, Athens 2010, 576 p.

This study attempts an historical and literary approach of the Greek prose fiction as a literary phenomenon from the first decades of 18th c. until 1830 by applying the theoretical tools of Polysystem Studies, Translation Studies, Reception Theory and Comparative Literature.

In the first of the study's three parts, under the title "Prose fiction and its genres", the author discusses aspects of the generic nature of both printed and manuscript material, either original or in translation, based on a combination of thematic, structural, morphological and other criteria. The prominent axis of this generic classification is the concept of dialogue between tradition and modernity, native and foreign literature, "popular" and "scholarly" books, books for children and juveniles and books for adults. It is demonstrated that the main objective of Greek literature is literary syncretism, that is the creation of a dialogue between literary systems that belong to different periods of time (Antiquity, Byzantine era, Renaissance, Baroque, Enlightenment).

The second part of the study entitled "Perceptions and theories for prose fiction" explores a fundamental aspect of the literary phenomenon, the discourse about prose fiction; this discourse rises out and is correlated with the emergence and the establishment of literary terms applicable to the modern narrative genres of the short story and the novel. The first indications, although latent or fragmentary, are found in epistolary texts from the milieu of the Mavrocordatos family; they are more clearly formulated in an essay by Demetri Catartzi, by product of his exchanges with the French *Encyclopédie*. Still, the conscious attempt at a theoretical discussion of the modern prose fiction was introduced by Adamantios Korais through his

dialogue with European neoclassicism. Actually, he is the first to introduce the term “mythistoria”. The manuals for the instruction of rhetoric and poetry following the English and French models as well as the literary press greatly contributed to the recognition and the diffusion of the Greek prose fiction. The criticism that was expressed and the scepticism towards the prose fiction concerned mainly its moral benefit and usefulness.

In the third part of the study, entitled “Translation: the dominant version of the dialogue with foreign literatures” the author focuses on various aspects of interlingual transfer. She re-examines the conception according to which the translation is placed in a high hierarchical position of the literary system and is entrusted with the realisation of basic cultural needs: the coordination and the parallelism with western literature as well as the consolidation of a modern language. Questions about the practice of translation are mainly expressed in the context of the search for the appropriate language and suggest a dialogue with the French Encyclopaedists. The desire for “faithful” translations dominates in the period under examination without excluding other attempts for assimilation and manipulation of foreign elements. Throughout this elaboration there emerges a consciousness which recognizes the particularity of fiction as a distinctive element of literary prose, disrupting the verse literary canon.

The book includes two appendices. The first presents the whole corpus of texts in prose fiction on which the present study is based. The second appendix presents the chronological table of the printed editions. A bibliography and an index of proper names and titles are also included.