

Database of Belarusian Periodicals

Introduction

Research on the processes of formation of literary markets has shown the crucial role of literary periodicals (van Rees XYZ, Bourdieu XYZ). Literary periodicals serve as central organizational platforms in literary life. Thus, we consider these magazines as a medium that allows us to reconstruct and to analyze the specific structure and internal development of a given literary field of action, e.g. to trace the ‘movements’ of single authors and/or literary groups within this field, the differentiation of a literary genre system, the formation of literary criticism and so forth.

The case of Belarusian literature seems to give particular insight into early stages of these developments since here the formation of a literary market started only at the beginning of the 20th century. Additionally, the events of WWI and October Revolution up to the integration of Belarus into the Soviet Union with its political, economic, social and cultural implications caused severe disruption in the development of an ‘autochthonic’ Belarusian literary market: After a phase of relative flourishing of Belarusian cultural life during the 1920s, the cultural and economic nationalization policy ends in the infamous ‘cleansings’ (‘čistki’) of the 1930s.

This highly dynamic phase in Belarusian literature particularly reflects on the pages of its literary magazines that are the focus of the ‘Database of Belarusian Periodicals’.

Periodicals

In order to analyze the processes in question the prototype of the Database includes the **four** most important Belarusian **literary periodicals** published between roughly **1920 and 1940**.

For the time being it focuses on capturing these periodicals’ tables of content, assuming that a systematic analysis does not necessarily need the literary texts themselves but rather makes do with the correspondent ‘paratexts’ (cf. Genette).

Maladnyak

(Minsk, 1923-1932): The main outlet of the organization “Maladnyak” (“Saplings”), founded in 1923 – a programmatic melting pot and laboratory of young Belarusian authors of mainly ‘proletarian’ and ‘rural’ descent, promoting literary advancement in the constitution of a socialist society.

Uzvyshsha

(Minsk, 1927-1931): Founded by a splinter group of “Maladnyak”. Some of the most important members of the organization publicly declared their resignation and founded the new group “Uzvyshsha” (“Excelsior,” literally: ‘elevation,’ ‘raising’). Uzvyshsha—the group and the magazine—will be active until 1931 when the group dissolves and simultaneously ceases to publish the magazine.

Polymya

(Minsk, 1922-1939): In 1927/28 “Maladnyak” experienced a “Second Split” which led to the loss of its founders and several other main authors. They reorganized in mainly two new groups one of which being the group “Polymya” (“The Flame”) founded in 1927 that will last un-

til 1931. It allies to the eponymic magazine that is in place since already 1922.

Kalos’se

(Vilna, 1935-1939): Main literary periodical in Belarusian language in Western Belarus (not yet integrated into Soviet Union before WWII, comprising parts of today’s areas of Poland and Lithuania).

КАЛОСЬСЕ



Data capture, Encoding, Analysis

Preparation of files

The tables of Content were transcribed manually in Open Office Documents using predefined styles for the relevant metadata and are then transformed via XSLT to XML. The TEI encoded files are enriched further and stored in a **XML-Database (exist-DB)**.

Зьмест 2 (10) нумару.	
І. Ів. Цыганіч—Кастусь Каліноўскі. <i>Гісторыя і літаратура</i>	Стр. 3
А. Гурло—К. Каліноўскі. <i>Вершы</i>	19
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Я. Кушала—Белавоўскі. <i>Вершы</i>	22
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Table of Content

```
<list>
  <item xml:id="Pol_1924_2_01"
ana="#G-nar">
  <bibl>
    <!-- content of item -->
  </list>
  <!-- other entries as tei:item -->
</list>
```

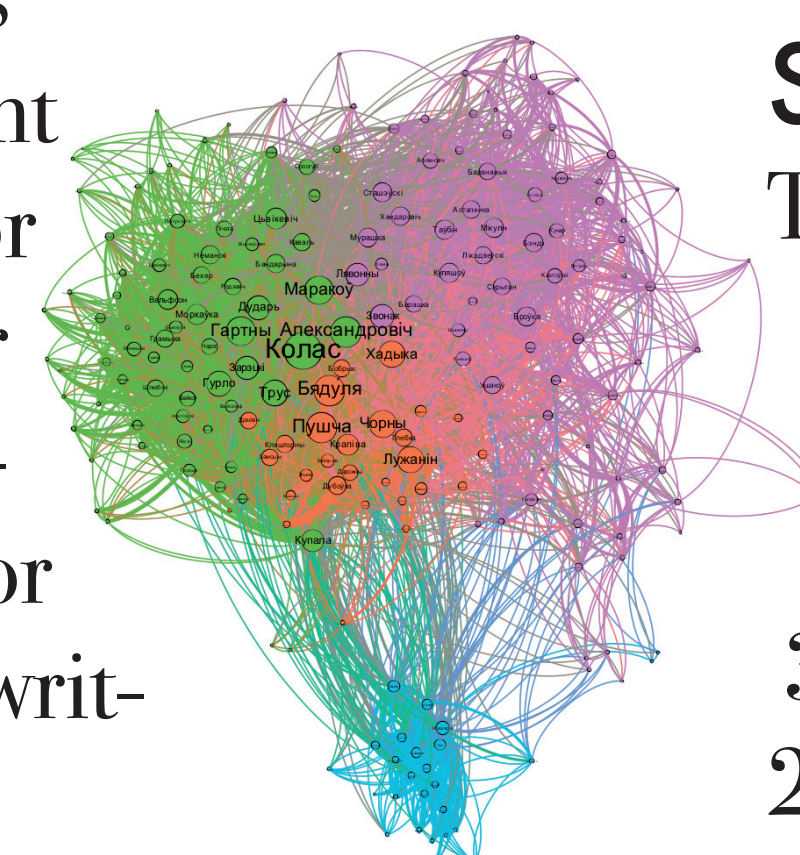
Analytic data is captured in the @ana-Attribute of each item and is linked to taxonomies in the <encodingDesc> of a separate file, containing the meta data on periodicals, authors and analytic encoding (included via x:include).

Authors

<author> in <bibl> linked to <person> in Metadata-File.

Challenges:

- spelling variants of author names
- pseudonyms
- different roles: author and translator
- missing authority files for Belarusian writers



Genre

The table of contents contain information on Genre-Classification for about 50% of the texts, which is used for automated allocation of @ana-Attributes and can be used for analysis of development of Genre.

Statistics

The prototype of the database contains:

- 168 issues
- 3563 Texts
- 207 identified authors