Theory and methodology in literary onomastics – proper names in István Szilágyi’s novels (in particular in Hollóidő /Time of ravens/)

László Tóth

The goal of my dissertation is to explore possibilities of research in literary onomastics. In Hungary there has been growing interest in so called literary name-giving since the middle of the 20th century. My dissertation aims at contributing to this field by presenting important theoretical and methodological results published abroad, and by applying these in my own survey. I focus particularly on research results that have not been known in Hungarian onomastic literature as far.

In the introductory part of the dissertation, the connection of literature, proper names and culture is concerned. Then, in the first part of the dissertation, fundamental concepts of literary onomastics are presented. Problems of terminology in Hungarian literature are treated in detail, and an attempt is made to solve these problems.

The goal of the next part of the dissertation is to survey meaning of proper names based on important works in logics and language philosophy. Special attention is payed to meaning of the so called fictional proper names.

Then, the most known typologies of literary names are rewied, and, after clarifying the most important concepts, a modified typology is proposed.

The next chapter focuses on functional types of fictional proper names. Dieter Lamping’s system, which has not been given any attention in Hungarian literature as far, is reviewed. Functional types of literary proper names are illustrated by examples mostly from Hungarian literary works. By these I aim at contributing to methodological renewal of Hungarian onomastic research.

In the last part of the thesis an attempt is made to make use of the theoretical and methodological results presented in the previous part. Literary names from István Szilágyi’s novel, Hollóidő (Time of ravens) are examined, using the typology suggested, and concentrating on their functional types.