

*From the Folklore Eroticon. An Essay on the Polyphony and Functional Interpretation of Narrative Poems*

*Summary*

The paper follows the narrative strategies employed in the oral poetical representations of female sexuality and family crisis in the case of a marriage triangle. In a comparative approach we analyze alternative solutions and emphasize different functions of a folklore text, as well as post-folklore modifications of the chosen storyline model. We confirm the hypotheses about the consistency of erotic metaphors, polyphony within the folklore discourse on female sexuality and hybrid structure of the post-folklore statement. As an illustration and argument for the examination of narrative poems in light of the folklore functions, as defined by William Bascom (Four Functions of Folklore, 1954: 333–349), we have chosen three texts, whose attachment to the same thematic and motif field is emphasized by the introductory formula, in earlier research recognized as a signal pointing to an archetypal connection between female sexuality and female handicraft. A diachronic deflection is established with the post-folklore records, which are the transcripts of the newly composed songs performed by Mile Janjić in 1971 and Emina Zečaj in 1976, which offers a resolution in the manner of the novelist songs and an insight into the music terminology connected to the terms *astalski glas* and *Sevdalinka*. It is from their perspective that in this paper we are attempting to view the relations of the folklore functions in a post-folklore text, therefore it was necessary to take into consideration the melodic pattern, i.e. the melopoetic meaning structure. Variations and combinations on the subject of the love triangle have undoubtedly been quite intensive in the oral communication. With the oral poetic combinations of motifs and ideas, the string of variants includes post-folklore texts which, as hybrid structures comprising the oral heritage and authorial interpretations and mass-media-supported receptions, provoke the patriarchal taboo of female sexuality in different degrees and thus confirm the importance of the whole corpus in the problem and research field of the folklore anthropology.

*Keywords:* folk poem, female sexuality, polyphony, carnival, ballad and romance, post-folklore.