

*Irony and Auto-Irony in the Literary Criticism of Borislav Mihajlović Mihiz*

*Summary*

On the basis of some self-critical statements of Borislav Mihajlović Mihiz, mostly found *in negativo*, by mechanisms of irony and auto-irony, the text presents an outline for observing Mihiz's critical writing from the ironic and auto-ironic standpoints, where such poetics of criticism is connected to the writer's biography, on which other critics left numerous accounts. Based on the briefly derived poetics of irony and auto-irony, the text examines the way in which Mihiz displayed an outstanding critical feeling for humor and laughter in literature, while using a number of comic devices in his own text. In this manner the Serbian critic reached original insights into the popular culture, which could be considered anticipations of the culture studies, where his steady defense of the daily criticism can be placed, as well. At the end, we present how Mihiz, fighting against the irrational or "occult" literature, reached the ironic and auto-ironic poetic paradox on his own, which today in a theoretically roundabout way tells us that he was not as metacritically "unaware" a critic as he claimed to be.

*Keywords:* irony, auto-irony, impressionistic criticism, daily criticism, metacriticism, humor, laughter, paradox, popular culture, Borislav Mihajlović Mihiz.