

ISA ONLINE GUEST LECTURE

FROM DENGBÊJ TO MODERN WRITER

MEHMET UZUN AND MEHMET DICLE'S INSPIRATIONS FROM KURDISH FOLKLORE

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Mehmed Uzun (1953-2007) and Mehmet Dicle (1977) are two well-known writers representing different generations of modern Kurdish literature. Both of them are known for their attention to Kurdish folklore. Their approach to oral tradition has evolved under the impact of growing literary experience, inspirations taken from world literature, and the deepening knowledge of Kurdish oral tradition, which has been increasingly collected and studied over recent decades in all parts of the Kurdish homeland.

The modern Kurdish literature can be seen as an example of heritagization, cultural resistance and revitalization based on "acting in and through the heritage language" (Justyna Olko). Moreover, the images, motifs and expressions derived from traditional stories can be applied metaphorically, to extend the „semantic reach of the new text, giving it a universal metaphoric resonance" (Éilís Ní Dhuibhne).

Accordingly, the oral tradition serves the modern Kurdish writers not only as a tool of nation building but also as a link with the global literary world.



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