

**Veronika Hermann**

**IDENTITY AS TEXTUAL EXPERIENCE IN ROMANTIC AND  
CONTEMPORARY HUNGARIAN LITERATURE**

The manuscript – besides many others – stands on Michel Foucault's late theory of the technologies of the self. The technologies of the self, by allegorizing the practices of antiquity and early Christianity, suggests to create a system that while defining identity, focuses more on the individual comparing to Foucault's earlier work, yet emphasizes its connection to the discourse. Paul de Man's *Autobiography as De-Facement* is an important essay in the regard of the analyzed texts' autobiographical definiteness and the examination of the self-narration and autofiction created through family relations.

The main goal of this book is to show the way from 19th century's myths of origin built on fiction and vague historical references, to various discourses of postmodern literature and metafiction. They have many causes and effects and naturally many differences as well. To expand a personal genealogy into a common one may as well be a contemporary strategy (*Apám helyett, TündérVölgy*) as the paraphrase of the representative discourse based upon twisting former traditions (*Országközi divatok*). In the last chapter by introducing some deconstructive and post-colonial theory on nation and identity I try to illustrate that „nation” is a construction that is more like a strategy than a community, and it shows its boundaries within the politics of representation. From stating organic communities, such subjects and communities have come through that were muted signs before, but now are writing, narrating and representing themselves, questioning linear narratives, and opposed against the continuity of historical traditions. The varied structures of identities could no longer be forced back into homogeneous settings. Exploring the notions of writing, language, text, narration, fiction and reference recites the processes of representation have been forming within the language.