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The Poetics of Plasticity – Liminality and Interculturality in the Prose of László Sepsi and Attila Veres

The concept of liminality was coined by ethnographer Arnold van Gennep to describe initiation rites in small communities. In the first phase of the rite, the initiate is separated from their family/community; in the middle, so-called liminal phase, their status becomes uncertain, and they can only exit this stage by enduring a trial, which is a prerequisite for returning to their original community with a new status. In our era of cultural transformation, the concept has become a generative one across diverse domains such as art, economics, and politics, allowing us to speak of liminal entities, periods, and spaces. In the posthuman, post-anthropocentric age, the human being's position in the world has itself become liminal, a condition increasingly explored in contemporary literature. These transitional states function as cultural metamorphoses and lend themselves to interpretation within an intercultural framework.

The presentation explores how shifting notions of human position and identity are articulated in contemporary fiction through characters who occupy liminal spaces – not only in terms of age, but also of ontological status – in László Sepsi's novel *Termőtestek* [Fruiting Bodies] and Attila Veres's short stories *Éjféli iskolák* [Midnight Schools] and *Fekete talán* [Black Perhaps].

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