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NARRATIVE MODE AND LITERARY KIND IN MEDIEVAL ORTHODOX
LITERATURES: THESES

(Summary)

Insufficient attention has been paid to the fundamental distinction between *genre* (literary, kind, or work-type) and *mode* (manner of representation). Aristotle's triad of narrative, dramatic, and mixed modes (the latter now generally replaced by lyric in theoretical schemes) is too often misunderstood to be a set of basic "genre". Instead, mode is a separate, cross-genre factor and may be said to operate even in texts that cannot be identified with established genre. *Narrative*, in particular, is fundamentally a modal concept, and not generic. Since subject-matter and mode (together with style and function) are sufficient to shape a text, medieval Slavic narrative writings, and especially the more secular ones, often lack clear genre adherence. A further thesis worthy of future study is that there could exist *relative modes*, i. e., historically determined variants of modal usage that were yet genres.