Juri Lotman in English: Bibliography

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Abstract. The bibliography provides a list of all known English-language publications by Juri M. Lotman (including in co-authorship and reprints), in chronological order, described de visu. The first English translation of J. Lotman’s work appeared in 1973, altogether there is 109 entries in the list. The bibliography demonstrates that in the 1970s and 1980s, most of the translations were published in the context of slavistics, whereas after 2000 Lotman’s work starts to appear in the anthologies of general semiotics.

Juri Lotman (1922–1993) became a leader of semiotics and literature studies after the first Kääriku Summer School on secondary modelling systems that took place in Estonia in 1964. Since about that time, he began to publish extensively. There appeared several books and many articles, the latter particularly in the established by him journal Труды по знаковым системам (Sign Systems Studies), but also elsewhere.

Lotman wrote almost exclusively in Russian. However, already since 1960s, his works became widely translated — into German, Spanish, Italian, and couple of other languages. English language appeared among the translations only since 1973. Surprisingly enough, the same has happened with some Lotman’s later masterpieces — his book Culture and Explosion that appeared in Russian in 1992, in Italian 1993, in Spanish 1999, in Polish 1999, in Estonian 2001 and 2005, was published in English only in 2009 (although in German only in 2010).
In 1960s, Tartu–Moscow school scholars knew French much better than English. In the journal *Social Science Information* (published since 1962) that served as the forerunner for *Semiotica* (published since 1969) and which published articles in both English and French, almost all early publications on Tartu semiotics were published in French (for example, Lotman 1967; Venclova 1967).

Lotman became known in the United States initially to a great extent via the first semiotics center in America at Brown University, where Thomas Winner was a leading scholar. Winner visited Moscow in 1967 and got inspired by Lotman’s works (Winner 2002: 423). Winner first published two Lotman’s books in Russian (as the first issues of the Brown Slavic Series — Lotman 1968, 1971) that made Lotman’s approach better known among the American slavist circles.

A good analysis of Lotman’s reception in the West has provided by Artur Blaim. For example, he writes (Blaim 1998: 333), “Even in such journals as *Semiotica, New Literary History* or *Poetics* which on several occasions published English translations of Lotman’s works his theoretical ideas are hardly ever used or considered by other contributors. In over a hundred volumes of *Semiotica* Lotman’s theories are discussed at any length only by Irene Portis Winner and Walter Rewar and by the reviewers of the English editions of his books”. Since then, however, the situation seems to have slightly changed (for example, Andrews 1999; see also Andrews 2003; Kliger 2010; Schönle 2006, etc.).

Todd (2006: 346), describing Lotman’s reception in the West, remarks that “in the United States, however, he has not found a place on fashion’s reading table”, and that dialogues with competing theoreticians of the West did not take place — “Lotman himself did not initiate such dialogues, and his Western readers, primarily Slavists, did not conduct them for him” (Todd 2006: 347).

Semiotics of culture as a profound approach in culture theory was somewhat hidden under the high popularity of ‘critical studies’ and ‘cultural studies’ for a couple of decades (Todd 2006; Terentowicz-Fotyga 2007). Cultural studies that identified itself quite clearly as a neo-marxist approach also differ from semiotics of culture in an ideological
emphasis, semiotics of culture being exclusively a scientific approach since its beginning.

Some aspects of the western context at the time when Lotman’s works on semiotics of culture where published have been described by Eimermacher (1977), Portis-Winner (1982), Sebeok (1998), Torop (1999), and Winner (2002).

The English translations of Juri Lotman’s works have appeared in different context and form:

(a) The very first text by Juri Lotman in English is the manifesto of semiotics of culture, written collectively together with four other members of Tartu–Moscow Semiotic School (1973, 1975, 1998, 2003) [1, 15, 16, 94, 99].


(c) Four volumes have been compiled to publish the collections of translated articles by the members of Tartu–Moscow school: edited by Henryk Baran (1976, Semiotics and Structuralism: Readings from the Soviet Union) [A]; by Daniel P. Lucid (1977, Soviet Semiotics: An Anthology; new edition in 1988) [B1, B2]; by Ann Shukman (1984, The Semiotics of Russian Culture) [C]; and by Alexander and Alice Nakhimovsky (1985, The Semiotics of Russian Cultural History) [D].


(f) More recently — only in the last decade, after the year 2000 — some Lotman’s texts have been published in general semiotics anthologies — edited by Gottdiener, Boklund-Lagopoulou and Lagonpoulos (2003) [99, 100], by Cobley (2006) [102], by Favareau (2010) [105], by Stjernfelt and Bundgaard (2011) [106, 107, 108].

(g) Five of Juri Lotman’s monographs have been published in English: *Analysis of the Poetic Text* (1976) [19], *Semiotics of Cinema* (1976, 1981) [20, 52], *The Structure of the Artistic Text* (1977) [33], *Universe of the Mind: A Semiotic Theory of Culture* (1990, 2001) [87, 96, 97], *Culture and Explosion* (2009) [104].

Several of the texts have appeared more than once (in some cases in different translations). The article “Myth — name — culture” (with B. Uspenskij) has been published even five times (1975; 1976; 1977; 1978; 1988) [9, 25, 41, 43, 85], as well as the manifesto of semiotics of culture (see (a) above).

Much of Lotman’s writings are not yet translated into English. This concerns particularly his studies on Russian culture (for example, his monographs on Nikolai Karamzin, Alexander Pushkin, Nikolai Gogol, his lectures on Russian culture, etc.), but also his numerous theoretical works. Some of the existing translations have appeared in the periodicals that have turned into bibliographic rarities. I hope that the current bibliography will help in finding Lotman’s texts and inspire further translation work.

The bibliography below provides the list of all known English-language publications by Juri M. Lotman (including in co-authorship), in

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1 Similarly, Berger (2005: 83–90) in his anthology-like introduction provides a chapter “Yuri Lotman: Semiotics of Cinema”, however without any entire text by Lotman but instead with several longer quotations from Lotman (1976) [20].
chronological order, altogether 109 entries from the period 1973–2011. There exist some larger bibliographies of Juri Lotman (Kisseljova 1992; 1993; Cáceres 1995; Cáceres, Kiselioua 2000; also an early bibliography by Eimermacher and Shishkoff, 1977) that were helpful in compiling the first version of the current list. Our bibliographic search resulted in additions and corrections of the earlier lists. All publications were described *de visu.*

**References**


Eimermacher, Karl 1977. Some aspects of semiotic studies of the Moscow and Tartu schools. In: Eimermacher, Karl; Shishkoff, Serge, *Subject Bibliography of

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2 In this bibliography, we have kept the spelling of names and initials as printed in the corresponding source. In case of standardization, the spelling 'Juri' is suggested for Lotman's first name as the one used mostly by himself in Latin script.

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Bibliography


[43] Lotman, Ju. M.; Uspensky B. A. 1978. Myth — name — culture. Semiotica 22(3/4): 211–233. [First appeared in Russian in 1973, in Sign Systems Studies (Труды по знаковым системам) 6; an English translation has previously appeared ([9], [25]), “but the authors advised Semiotica that they regard the translation that follows “as the only authorized version of our article in English” (p. 227).]


[60] Lotman, Jurij M. 1984. The theater and theatricality as components of early nineteenth-century culture. (Smith, G. S., trans.) In: *ibidem* [C], 141–164.


[The new edition of Lucid 1977 [B1]. This book includes the following articles [78]–[85]:]


Юрий Лотман на английском: библиография

Настоящая библиография дает полный хронологический обзор трудов Юрия Михайловича Лотмана на английском языке (включая статьи, написанные в соавторстве, и повторные издания). Всего в списке 109 публикаций и все описания составлены de visu. Из библиографии явствует, среди прочего, что если в 1970-х и 1980-х гг. переводы Лотмана в основном издавались в контексте славистики, то после 2000 года его труды начинают появляться в антологиях по общей семиотике.

Juri Lotman inglise keeles: bibliograafia