



# Germinated Seeds: The Development of Vygotsky's Psychology of Art in His Early Journalistic Publications (1916-1923)

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## Abstract

Discussions regarding the biography and development of the psychological ideas of Lev Semionovich Vygotsky often erroneously commence from the year 1924, when he took up a position at the Psychological Institute in Moscow. The purpose of this paper is to analyze some samples of approximately 80 early less-known and untranslated journalistic publications of L. S. Vygotsky in order to trace the development of his principal ideas about art. In the course of writing these literary and theatrical reviews, Vygotsky's cultural and esthetic views gradually matured and later found expression in his *Psychology of Art* (1925).

In his weekly essays and reviews in 1922-23, he wrote about literature, cinema, and a proposed theatrical *technicum*, reviewing both local and visiting troupes, as well as about Jewish, Russian, and Belorussian theater. On the one hand, his sharp criticisms were aimed at forming a demanding, cultured audience, and on the other, at creating literature and theater that could rightfully be called art. These reviews clearly attest to the formation of Vygotsky's analytic methodology, which he later called the "objective-analytic method".

**Key words:** Vygotsky's biography, psychology of art, literary criticism, theatrical criticism.