ABSTRACT: Dialogue presupposes the interplay of community and difference between participants. It presupposes as well that thought takes place as movement, as heterogeneity. This is indeed what we find in the thinking of the three authors referred to here, authors who have taken back up and renewed the tradition of studies about dialogue as meaning-making. A similar tension can be found in the relationships we can establish among them, as well as in the ways in which we can read them. We can thus say that the specificity of novels in general and of Dostoïevsky’s novels in particular, as analyzed by Bakhtin, is to show, in their heterogeneous unfolding, the contingency of ideas as events rather than as some experimental or deductive “science” of thought. As a final thought, we need to recall some of the the specific aspects of intergenerational dialogue and of what the transmission-modification of culture can be.

KEYWORDS: culture, dialogue, novel, meaning, generations