In this article, a notion of interliterary dialogue as a form of interliterary process is brought into comparative literature. Literary dialogue differs fundamentally from contact ties and typological convergences. It is ascertained that dialogue is a field of interliterary relations which generates meaning and is hard to rationalize. Dialogue has such characteristics as multilayer structure; heterogeneity; diversity of intersubjective ties and their mutual influence; unity of what is discontinuous and continuous, or regional (national) and universal. The nature of interliterary dialogue opens up on the basis of Russian and Tatar literature of different historical periods (second half of the 19 century-first third of the 20 century). Besides, the article detects the features of national identity and word art universals in the conditions of the dialogue between different cultures and literatures.