

Abstract

The present doctoral thesis „Wortwahl, Grammatik und Aussage. Eine strukturelle Analyse der Dramen *Три сестры*, *Вишневый сад* und *Власть тьмы*” („Choice of words, grammar and message. A structural analysis of *Три сестры*, *Вишневый сад* and *Власть тьмы*”) deals with problems that Tchechow and Tolstoy implicitly or explicitly treated in their literary work and they are used to derive themes concerning content, structure and presentation of the chosen theatre plays.

On the basis of certain distinguishing criteria of disciplines like psychology, sociology, medicine, theology and philosophy words were taken from the theatre plays to match them under certain generic terms such as emotions, everyday life, life and death, folklore, superstition, religion, human body, physiological phenomena and illness to prove that they reflect a certain literary movement. The examination uses different fields of linguistics such as grammar, semantics, pragmatics and morphology to add a methodological access for the interpretation of literature besides those already existing..

The work of Jost Trier, Elisabeth Weis and Henning Bergholtz were used to support the given examination although they do not take literary texts and their special form, i.e. drama into consideration. Pieces of literature create a world of their own with their own ideas and images. Thus, it was tried to consider the reception of literature and to suggest a method of evaluating a piece of literature by presenting a structure of terms through which the functioning of a literary text within a reader's imagination becomes obvious. On the basis of the literary text and its lexical structure the method presented in this doctoral thesis supports the reader's comparison of his own ideas with those of Tchechow and Tolstoy.