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German-speaking Workers' Drama Around the Turn of the 19th into 20th Century
in Prussia and Austria-Hungary. Forms - Contexts - Influences

Summary

Workers' drama as a genre is not presented in literary studies very often. The working milieu seems to be out of the contemporary literary criticism, also because of ideological and political connotations. The intent of this doctoral thesis' author is an objective confrontation of Max Weber's, Georg Simmel's, and Karl Marx's theories with a subjective picture of the society portrayed in the drama production at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, which can be classified as workers' drama. Furthermore, he aims to define workers' drama more precisely, as well as to place it in the wide range of historical, political, and socioeconomic events. Relating to the practical value of the conducted research, a deepened analysis of texts which are vestigially present in the historical literary studies, as well as bringing biographies of the forgotten authors into closeup are worth to be mentioned.

It is important to say that all examined dramas come from the German-speaking area, but they do not have the same cultural background. Some of them were created in Prussia (later – a part of the German Reich established in 1871), and some of them – in ethnically differed Austria-Hungary. The dissertationist makes an effort to order the knowledge about realities of both political systems, having influenced the societies and literary experiments.

This dissertation aims to sharpen dependencies between an individual and the processes determining or restricting their actions. The thesis should depict, freely of cognitive distortions, the human confronted with a dramatic change in the living conditions, resulting from the rush development, politics, and economy. This is the turn of the centuries, when the modern world, as we know it, begins. Looking at the overture of modernity through the output of the meanwhile forgotten playwrights, lets us see the continuity of the European societies' and economies' evolution.