

Review

for the dissertation of Mihrije Maloku-Morina

"Dreiser as a Steady Critic of Social Injustice"

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Moris Fadel,

New Bulgarian University

The work of Mihrije Maloku-Morina examines an author to whom the interest in modern literary studies is not great. Theodore Dreiser does not belong to the canon of writers who are frequently discussed, on whom literary-theoretical and philosophical schemes are built. However, this is what makes Morina's work interesting and contributing. It brings us back to the ideas of realism and naturalism, which a little excite contemporary literary thinking; to a style of writing influenced by Dickens and Zola, to which contemporary authors have little to do.

Mihrije Morina herself is aware of Dreiser's "old-fashionedness", of the fact that he belongs to a literary "yesterday," which these authors do not like to remember much. At the same time, however, this "yesterday" seems to be too quickly forgotten, and perhaps the moment is not far when literary studies will find a way to Dreiser. In any case, Morina's work works in this direction.

In its four parts, the work analyses Dreiser's main novels. The reading of Dreiser's works is realized with great attention to the text, but also with knowledge of the literary tradition and context. Morina has a sense of style and rhythm in Dreiser's narrative. The structure of the works and the psychology of the characters are well described.

At the same time the dissertation presents social ideas of Dreiser's works. These ideas are not considered, as is often the case, without connection to the historical context of the works and to the structure of the works. Morina convincingly shows that Dreiser is a social critic, but his criticism does not become a political ideology. Very interesting is the analysis of the novel "The Bulwark". Morina underlines the connection between Dreiser's texts and the American transcendentalism.

I strongly recommend the scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Mihrije Maloku-Morina.

16. 02, 2021 г.

Moris Fadel