

## REVIEW STATEMENT

on the monographic study  
“THE PRICE OF REALITY AND POSSIBLE WORLDS OF LITERATURE  
(CONRAD, KAFKA, CAMUS)”,

by

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by

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(Abstract)

DISSERTATION deals with a major problem, intersection between philosophy and literature. It is oriented literature as a semiotic machine for constructing imaginary realities (“worlds”), in other words, how literature in its own *false* mode speaks of reality. Formulated in this way, the problem is primarily epistemological in the general sense, insofar as it deals with reality and its knowledge. Secondly and in a more particular aspect, here is the question of articulating this knowledge by literature as a secondary sign system that reflects / re-articulates reality as a possibility that in the literature’s own mode is a full-fledged reality.

The genre of utopia and anti-utopia is a specific intersection between philosophy and literature in the problematic scope of the dissertation. It is particularly important for the issue under discussion, including because of its nominal connection with place as imaginary, as *non-place*, but even more so with its opposition as *possible* to a certain political reality.

In view of its scope and objectives, the dissertation has a simple and streamlined structure. It consists of a short Introduction, where the goals are generally launched and the workspace is marked, two main parts and a Conclusion, where what has been done is reviewed and essentialized. In its architecture, the dissertation can be likened to a monument: a massive pedestal and a figure standing on top of it. In this case, the figures are three: Conrad, Kafka and Camus.

The first main part builds the theoretical basis. It consists of two large chapters. The first chapter is “philosophical” (theoretical) in the narrowest sense, here the basic working concepts are clarified. The second chapter can be defined as a opening to geography, an exit to natural-philosophical horizon.

This two chapters are very different from each other in every sense – not only thematically-problematic sense, but also discursive, as a narrative. But together they build the pedestal on which are placed the three concrete literary figures that make up the Second Part – the literary. Each of them is the subject of a separate chapter. Finally, as the fourth chapter, a general comparative reading is made, which synthesizes common typologies.

IN CONCLUSION – the dissertation is the first complete Bulgarian study of a problem that has so far been only partially addressed.

First of all, it develops a theoretical discussion about the possibilities of literature to build autonomous imaginary realities, alternatives to the socio-political one. Secondly, it shows how these possibilities practically work in the late modern Western literature of the twentieth century through the work of three writers who are very different from each other, but in their own important, pivotal and milestone for it, for our own ontological self-consciousness. As a third, specific emphasis in compositional architecture and in the problematic scope of the study, I would single out the chapter on the metaphorical potential of the island as a cultural topos.

The work is written with erudition and imagination, the happy combination of which makes reading a pleasure.

We have before us an insightful, in-depth study of “human destiny” in the age of late modernity through the experience of three of its most astute witnesses.

A study that enriches contemporary humanitarian thought in Bulgaria, helping to open it to much broader, global contexts.

In methodological terms, being a happy “common place” between the philosophical and literary spheres, it realizes the idea of the indivisible homogeneity of humanitarian knowledge.

For me, meeting and empathizing with this narrative was not only an intellectual but also an emotional adventure, exciting and enriching me.

Adding to all this the meeting of all formal requirements, I have no choice but to convincingly vote for the author Maya Gorcheva to be awarded the scientific degree “Doctor of Science”, for which she pleads in the present procedure.

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