

SITUATIONAL AND LINGUISTIC SATIRE IN THE WORK BY JOSEF ŠKVORECKÝ ENTITLED FROM THE LIFE OF CZECH SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

This article focuses on the analysis of situational and linguistic satire in Josef Škvorecký's work *The Life of Czech Society*. Škvorecký, known for his sharp wit and critical perspective on Czech society, utilises satire as a tool to depict the absurdities and shortcomings of everyday life. The article examines how Škvorecký effectively combines situational humour and linguistic play to create incisive social commentary. Emphasis is placed on how characters and dialogues reflect and parody the Czech cultural mentality and the political situation of his time. The analysis delves into literary techniques used to mock societal norms and expectations. By dissecting specific passages and dialogues, we illustrate how Škvorecký's use of humour not only entertains but also provokes critical reflection on broader social issues. The contribution thoroughly explores the role of humour as a means of critique. Furthermore, the article considers Škvorecký's enduring legacy in shaping the narrative of satire as a dynamic form of literary expression. Through this examination, the article provides insights into Škvorecký's work, highlighting the timeless relevance of his satirical approach.

Keywords: Josef Škvorecký, satire, exile, critical reflexion, child narrator

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this article is to analyse the book by Josef Škvorecký, entitled *The Life of Czech Society*, from the perspective of literary communication. The analysis of the work allows us to observe the literary mastery of one of the most prominent Czech authors of the 20th century, who spent a large part of his life in Canadian exile after leaving Czechoslovakia in 1968. A particularly interesting aspect of the literary analysis is the sources of the humorous effect in the studied text. The possibilities for analysis are provided primarily by the specific features of Škvorecký's prose, especially his linguistic humour.

Interestingly, the book *The Life of Czech Society* holds only marginal significance within the context of Škvorecký's work, prompting the question of why this is the case when examining the text.

The first part of the article analyses the textual level of the work. From the point of view of textual linguistics, three basic features of the text can be distinguished: coherence, cohesiveness, and linearity. In relation to coherence, we notice the fragmentary nature of the text. This fragmentariness is due to its compositional structure, which takes the form of school essays by primary school students, letters, and diary records of various family members, or tape recordings of a boy attending a Canadian kindergarten. The author did not choose a composition leading to text fragmentation by chance; he