

THE POSITION OF JOSEF ŠKVORECKY IN THE PROCESS OF LITERARY COMMUNICATION

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ABSTRACT

Josef Škvorecký, the eminent Czech writer and literary theorist, occupies a key place in the context of Czech literature, not only thanks to his extensive work, but also through his work as a publisher and promoter of Czech literature in exile.

This paper focuses on the personality of Josef Škvorecký, who, as an author, forms the first link in the communication process in which the message is transmitted from the author to the perceiver.

The analysis works with two different perspectives. The first one is the psychological one, with the help of which the article examines the sources of inspiration in the authors of world literature, looks for the unifying element of Škvorecký's work and seeks an answer to the question of its specificity. In this context, the scheme of literary communication developed by the Italian semiotician Umberto Eco will be used. The analysis will focus on the linguistic code, which plays an extremely important role in Škvorecký's work. The second approach is the sociological one, which follows the author in the position of a kind of intersection of social forces, of which the author himself became a spokesman.

This research contributes to the broader field of literary analysis by bridging psychological inspiration and sociological impact, offering new insights into the dynamic interplay between individual creativity and social context, thus enriching our understanding of Škvorecký's unique contribution to world literature.

Keywords: Josef Škvorecký, literary communication, the 1960s, linguistic code, exile

INTRODUCTION

Josef Škvorecký stands as one of the most prominent Czech authors of the 20th century, distinguished by his deep understanding of human psychology and societal issues. Born in 1924 in Náchod, his life and literary career were profoundly shaped by historical events that impacted not just Czechoslovakia but the entire world. Škvorecký's body of work encompasses a diverse range of literary forms, including novels, short stories, essays, and translations, and is frequently marked by irony, humour, and a critique of totalitarian regimes.

A central theme in Škvorecký's writing is the tension between the individual and society. This theme is explored through characters who often find themselves facing moral dilemmas and decisions that have significant repercussions for their own lives and the lives of those around them. Škvorecký's protagonists are typically intellectuals