

ABSTRACT

The thesis explores the depiction of homosexuality in the novels *Goodbye to Berlin* and *A Single Man* by Christopher Isherwood. The novels represent two distinctive periods in Isherwood's life and fiction, European and American, and as such firmly ground him in the canon of pre-gay liberation movement fiction on both continents. The text consists of two main parts, the theoretical and the practical. The theoretical part of the thesis provides a comprehensive overview of British and American queer fiction in the period between the end of the 19th century and the year 1969, corresponding to literary periods and movements which had the greatest impact on Isherwood's prose. In addition, a structured biography of the author is presented, outlining the most significant events in the author's life with reference to his two literary voices. The practical part of the thesis consists of a comparative analysis of the novels across five selected topics. The characters are analysed chiefly in terms of their personal identity, interpersonal relationships and societal roles. Moreover, the contribution of the author's own influence and the narrative techniques he employed is scrutinised. The thesis, therefore, aims to identify the main differences between how homosexual characters are portrayed and determine the causes of this distinctness in relation to the author's personal life and cultural environment.

KEY WORDS

identity, homosexuality, interpersonal relationships, society