

Abstrakt (anglicky)

This dissertation joins a conversation in German literary studies about East German literature's role, identity, and characteristic features. The thesis discusses the phenomenon of autonomy of the dramatic compositions written by Peter Hacks and Heiner Müller in the 1960s and 1970s in the GDR. The theoretic background of the research consists, among other things, of a short introduction to theoretical concepts developed by Kenneth Burke (particularly his New Rhetoric approach presented in *The philosophy of literary form*), Raymond Williams (including his cultural materialism), as well as Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno (Critical Theory). Furthermore, the dissertation deals with the idea of metatheatre, and it discusses elements of metadrama (Karin Vieweg-Marks) in the selected plays. The symbolic boundaries of research are the Berlin Wall's construction in 1961 and the expulsion of the German poet and songwriter Wolf Biermann in 1976. By analyzing the authors' concrete strategies, the thesis demonstrates that their plays articulate both the European literary tradition and the (East) German socialist project.