

In their literary works, both Chekhov and Tolstoy contrast utilitarianism and other negative impacts of civilization with nature, childhood, truth, love and creative work, which they regard as the most important values of quality human life. Chekhov speaks out against the conception of the peasant as the teacher of the rest of the nation. Tolstoy shows that urban intelligentsia holds an artificial, idealised and conservative conception of the peasantry. In Tolstoy's opinion, investments should be used to solve the question of the peasantry. Chekhov shows that people's moral impotence leads to the contamination of nature.