

My final thesis The motif of 'Lucifer' in the novel Lucifer by Connie Palmen discusses two important Dutch literary works: the tragedy Lucifer by Joost van den Vondel (1654) and the novel Lucifer by Connie Palmen (2007).

Vondel's tragedy is inspired by the Book of Genesis. According to some particular interpretations of the Bible the angel Lucifer organised a rebellion against God after hearing about creation of mankind. He considered humans as a threat for both heaven and the angels living in there. He believed that through the birth of humans the given order in heaven could have been disturbed. This fatal mistake led to a division of the angels and resulted in an immense battle in which Lucifer and his followers were defeated. As a result Lucifer was expelled from heaven. As revenge he managed to manipulate Eve in the Eden into eating the forbidden fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

The main character of this famous tragedy, Lucifer, inspired Connie Palmen to write a novel with a structure of a classical, Aristotle tragedy. She was also inspired by many Dutch celebrities and important events starting in the sixties, at latest in the nineties in Amsterdam. Her novel is therefore not only a great thriller and detective story (the wife of the main character perished under mysterious circumstances), but also a great document describing not only the life and work of famous Dutch composer Peter Schat (in the novel Lucas Loos), but also other significant composers and artists.

The reaction of the critics was mainly negative, because they claimed that Palmen discredited the composer by accusing him of murdering his wife. The novel is namely based on fiction and also reality, but the border between them seems uncertain. This border is the main topic of the novel, together with the issue whether Schat murdered his wife, Marina Schapers. However, the second question remains unanswered.