

Abstract

Key words: characters, free choice, free will, motivation, relations with authorities

This thesis is focused on work of Portuguese writer Miguel Torga, author of an extensive corpus of poetic as well as prosaic works. Since this literary study is the first study of his work, the opening part of the thesis is focused on author's life and on putting his work into historical and literary context of that time.

Second part of the thesis concentrates primarily on literary analysis of two selected collections of short stories, in which Miguel Torga returns to rural background of his childhood. Into this environment with archaic and pagan attributes Torga introduces strong and unique characters, who are often confronted with critical situations. At such moments author can expose characters' qualities to reader together with their motivation, relations to other individuals, to present community or to other authorities.

Analysis of these basic factors enables resulting study of an existence of free will of characters and of possible manifestation of their free will in comparison to selected elements of philosophy of existentialism, which was arising in that time.