

Abstract

Daniela Foltinová: Constantly Think: A Philosophical Interpretation of Thinking in Thomas Bernhard and Friedrich Nietzsche

The thesis presents a philosophical interpretation on the problem of thinking acquired through the thorough analysis of Thomas Bernhards' novels *Gehen*, *Verstörung* and *Alte Meister* and an interpretation of knowledge, fallacy and thinking in the works of Friedrich Nietzsches' *Menschliches*, *Allzumenschliches* and *Fröhliche Wissenschaft*. The focal question of the thesis is: What does it mean to think? Interpretations of Bernhard held in three lines are always connected with the character in the novel. The fourth interpretation focuses solely on Nietzsches' thinking. There are four interpretations of thinking then. The first one characterizes thinking as a state of chaos taking place in the madmans' mind. The second one leads to the conception of reflective thinking of an observer. Both of them present a negative way of treating thinking as non-thinking. The third one with a storyteller taking thinkers' position shows procesual part of thinking: it is necessarily an activity with no further need for reflection or conceptualization. Therefore, it is to be found in the literary form of the novels. The analysis of Nietzsches' thinking emphasizes the need to dispute over the conceptual thinking and its boundaries, question previously raised by Bernhard. Both authors are shown to criticise the problem of thinking in different concepts, however the underlying idea is the same. This opens a qualitatively different picture on what thinking is and what should be undergone „to think“.