

## **Abstract**

My paper will focus upon the theme of loss in postwar Central European literature in works of Nabokov, Bachmann, Bernhard, Handke, Esterhazy, and Chwin, which are narrated as a modern subject's testimony of loss. My goal is to make a collection of loss figures (inspired by Roland Barthes's *Fragments of a Lover's Discourse*) to examine the nature of testimony in relation to the acts of writing. Any analytical inquiry that focuses itself on the literary testimony as a work of art will have to deal with these textual mechanisms: transparency, suppression, deleting, distancing, turning over, heaviness and reduction.