

Abstract

This diploma thesis deals with the genre of metafictional novel. The aim of the diploma thesis is to identify various internal motivations for the usage of metafiction technique in literature and to describe the role of a writer.

The first part summarizes the theoretical background of the genre and formulates some characteristic features of metafictional novel (emphasized vicariousness of the narrative, reflection of the creative act, personality of the writer, or the problematized relationship between reality and fiction), which were all illustrated by the analysis of André Gide's novel *The Counterfeiters*. The second part consists of interpretations of three metafictional novels. The interpretations aim at a complex analysis of the author and at a description of various functions of the metafiction technique as a constituent of the work's meaning.

Gide uses metafiction to display the discrepancy between reality and illusion, thus uncovering hypocrisies of society and passing judgement on it. To a peak, metafiction is a tool for applying multiperspectivity to his storyline, thus creating a metaphor of varying epistemic principles. Metafictional genre was further utilized by Jeřábek in his novel *Rozhraní* to illustrate the polarity and the merging of fiction and reality. He used it as a background for a greater story of search for identity and truth through art. For Kantorková, the metafictional novel represents the genre, which provides her with the greatest amount of creative freedom and gives her a chance to thematize the act of creation, which, for her, is an act of rescue.

The author, who often merges with the narrator of the story, or with some of the main protagonists, most often takes on an anti-illusionary role. He functions as a link between reality and fiction. He's ascribed the role of a truth-seeker, a device of detachment from the story or, on the contrary, an agent of experience. As a writer, he also becomes a mediator of the author's notions about literary production.

Key words: metafiction, writer, narrator, reflection of the creative act, vicariousness, storyline, literariness, anti-illusionary narrative, art, fiction, reality, truth, cognition, identity, secret