

Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to describe the phenomenon of Tjil Uilenspiegel character in the context of the Flemish literature after 1867. The thesis focuses on the comparison of two pieces of work of the Flemish literature - the novel *De legende van Tjil Uilenspiegel* by Charles De Coster of 1867 and its adaptation into a play by Hugo Claus with the emphasis on analysis of the influence of the Flemish Movement on the message of the work.

The first chapter describes the medieval stuff around the character Tjil Uilenspiegel and brings an overview of important adaptation of this theme between 1967 and 1965. A two level analysis of the novel is followed by chapters which are focused on the description of the social and political factors of the Flemish Movement in the 19th century and in the first half of the twentieth century. These are a literary text analysis and an analysis of the occurrence of the references to the Flemish nationalism. These two levels of the novel are later compared with the play of Hugo Claus.

The literary analysis includes the analysis of the plot, narrative mode, time, place and motives of the novel. The reference occurrence analysis is divided into two groups - direct references (occurrence of the word Flanders and all the variations of this word) and indirect references (implicit expressed references to the Flemish nationalism).

The comparative analysis shows what Hugo Claus did with transforming of the novel into a play providing many changes in the work content and adding some characters. Hugo Claus's play, however, when compared with the novel omits some direct references to the Flemish nationalism, which significantly changed the overall tone of the work. Thus we can conclude that in this adaptation Hugo Claus didn't place such significant emphasis on the nationalistic tone of the work in comparison the novel version.