

Abstract

This thesis analyse life and work of the leading figure of italian literature in the twentieth century Elsa Morante. Important elements of her work are defined on the basis of analyses of all her novels. The introduction part shows her personal life and complete work, which includes also poetry, short stories and fairy tales. Four chapters analysing her four novels are following. The author debuts in 1948 when she published novel *Menzogna e sortilegio*. Second book *L'isola di Artura* followed nearly ten years later in 1957. This novel won critical acclaim and favour of readers. Next book *La Storia* was a bestseller with more than 600 000 sold copies. Critic's opinions differ widely, up to now this novel is receiving opposing reviews. Morante concluded her writing with the last very pessimistic novel *Aracoeli*. Author wrote just four novels, in every one of them she used the same methodes and themes. Typical components of her writing style are the subject of the last chapter.

key words:

Elsa Morante, *Menzogna e sortilegio*, *L'isola di Arturo*, *La Storia*, *Aracoeli*, author's style