

Abstract

This thesis aims to introduce the Italian writer Grazia Deledda and analyze her three Sardinian novels: *La via del male* (The way of evil), *Elias Portolu* (Elias Portolu) and *Canne al vento* (Reeds in the Wind). At the beginning, I briefly summarize the sociographic situation of the island of Sardinia in the middle of the 19th century as it had considerable influence on the author and her writings. I also include the bio-bibliographical section, which chronologically portrays Deledda's personal life and her literary works.

The central themes of her works are passion, sin and their subsequent atonement. The protagonists suffer especially in the depths of their hearts and dialogue and struggle with their conscience. Lyrical descriptions of the land are also a distinguishing feature of Deledda's writing, together with portrayal of local traditions and customs with the occasional inserted text with Sardinian words, specifically the writer's Nuoro dialect.

Finally, I try to compare all three works and attempt to locate their constant and variable features and gain insight into the female characters within Sardinian communities. In the appendix, I review the reception of Deledda in the Czech speaking lands and include a brief history of the island and Deledda's personal photos.