

Abstract

The key feature of realism in drama is capturing a person including all its problems and flaws. Authors L. N. Tolstoj and Mrštík brothers in *Government of darkness* and *Marysha* congruently focused on life in countryside and the negative, almost destructive, way in which cities and their culture influence it. The aim of this thesis was to capture the main motives in the changes of life in Russian and Czech countryside. This analysis concludes that the most significant shifts are in peoples' morals, mostly due to the fact that both individuals as well as the whole society were intensively driven to earn and accumulate wealth, even at the cost of happiness, health or, sadly, human life. Tolstoj's drama also captures in more detail and depth abandonment of religion in pursuit of personal profit. Although the religious motive is an inherent part of rural mentality, it's mostly missing in the play by Mrštík brothers, who themselves were atheist.

Significant space in those plays has been dedicated to female characters. They are described as either dominant, manipulative women with clear goals, or the authors emphasize their vulnerability and lack of experience. Matrjona and Lízalka are mature women whose main goal is to financially provide for their childs without any regard for their children's happiness. Contrary to this, Anisja and Maryša want to spend their lives with their beloved ones. Property and possession are secondary. The male characters undergo noticeable changes in those dramas. Nikita begins as a simple diligent boy, but later becomes a bohemian who frivolously spends his earnings. His love for money eventually breaks his spirit and even makes him murderer of his own infant son. Similarly fundamental change of character can be found in the Czech drama, where farmer Lízal abandons his stands towards wealth as the measure of character.

Wealth really is the main motive for change of both one's character as well as the whole rural community. According to the authors of the studied dramas, city, being a source of work opportunities and regular income, is also a source of modern slavery under supremacy of money. The desire to gain wealth has clouded minds of many characters who then couldn't control their actions and eventually have caused severe tragedies. The social pressure to obtain wealth as well as avoid public scandals has ruined and twisted several innocent characters in both plays.

Realistic drama emphasizes description of individual characters' behavior, through which are the authors relaying their opinions. They focused mainly on the spoiling influence of wealth on rural community as a proof of human influenzability by false life goals. The theme of the influence of wealth on personality is still very relevant today, which is one of the reason for the remaining popularity of those plays.