

Abstract

This diploma thesis is examining hidden presence of a French author Romain Gary in the works of Émile Ajar. Only after Gary's death the public learned, that Émile Ajar was in fact Gary's pseudonym, although he has publicly denied this connection throughout his life. Because of this unrevealed mystification, Gary was given Goncourt prize twice, despite the fact that each author is only allowed to receive it once. Gary claims in his testament, that an observant reader of his work should immediately discover the connection. Can we agree with him, even if literary critics failed to find out? This work investigates various literary practices used by authors to hide their identity. The "lives" of both authors are presented. Gary did not only create Émile Ajar's life story, he also persuaded his nephew to pose as Ajar in public. The stories are followed by a comparative analysis of eight novels: four published under Gary's name and four under the pseudonym. Comparing the selected works from diverse aspects, we try to answer the principal question: Was it possible to prove that Émile Ajar was Gary's creation during his very lifetime?