

Summary: Mateiu I. Caragiale and Romanian literary decadence

This statement deals especially with works by Mateiu I. Caragiale, who is the only one Romanian author of decadence prose. It contains the brief biographical chapter, because the certain biographical details are necessary for understanding of author's work. Further it deals gradually with all Caragiale's literary pieces and each is devoted to the separate chapter and they are sorted chronology by the period, when they were written (not published). It is observed mainly the unifying elements of all work and the gradual evolution as well.

The second chapter is about author's poetry summarized to the collection *The eagles* (Pajere) and explores it from versological, language and thematic perspective. It also looks for the connections with the contemporary poetic lines as parnasism, symbolism, decadence and disproves the definite assignment this largely original and peculiar poetry to parnasism.

Other chapters deal gradually with Caragiale's prosaic works: the story *Remember*, the top novel *The kings from the old court* (Craii de Curtea-Veche) and novel fraction *Under the seal of secrecy* (Sub pecetea tainei). All proses are observed from the following aspects: stylistic, narrative (here I obviously come out the conception F. K. Stanzel's, G. Genette's and S. Rimmon-Kenan's), thematic and partly comparistic. Particularly in the first prose the connection with literary patterns are searched especially with European decadence and predecadence, the typical basis of opinions, the topics and charts decadent literature withal how the author works with them and achieves the original way of expressing. Marginally the parallels are found in the Czech literature, in the work by the most important Czech decadent writer Jiří Karásek ze Lvovic.

The typical features and the topics of author's work are continuously observed: the esthetics of secrets, the theme of memories, the interpenetration of dream and reality, nostalgia, the inconsistent relationship to the homeland and its history, the ambiguity of characters, the particular conception of the upper class, the atmosphere etc. The attention in proses is devoted the changes of the narrator in the first person and his role. The unifying element of all Caragiale's poems and prosaic works is the elaborate and refined style reaching its full top in the piece *The kings from the old court*. The main message of work is just found in the style and the redemptive role of beauty.