

## *Abstract*

The goals of the present dissertation are twofold: 1) to bring back into the literary thought the notion of “world view”, which has been largely discredited due to its abuse in the context of official Marxism during the socialist era, and 2) to affirm the usefulness of the notion of “world view” in the literary practice.

The thesis is structured so as to meet the goals: the first chapter presents several probes of the usage of the phrase “world view” and definition discussions related to it. In this framework, the “scientific world view” from the socialist era is then confronted with a range of other definitions of the notion, such as F. X. Šalda’s “view of life and world”.

In the second chapter, I present my approach to this notion, aimed at serving the purposes of current literary research. Firstly, I distinguish the notion of “world view” from the notions of “mentality” and “ideology”, and secondly, following the research of The Worldviews Group (Brussels) I propose my own definition of world view. Since the Group does not deal with actual interpretations of literary texts, I make use for the intended purpose of an updated and slightly modified concept of Terry Eagleton, originally published within the monograph *Criticism and Ideology* (1976).

What is essential is foremost to differ between a) “world view” as an axiological construct pertaining to a certain individual, b) “ideology” as a collectively shared set of ideas with the ambition to become an argument in political power struggle, and c) “model of the world” as a concrete fictional text set on specific principles pertaining to fiction worlds. At the same time it is necessary to emphasize that relations between these categories morph into a single unique configuration in each case; this becomes one of the reasons why I deal with works of one author, Benjamin Klička, in two of the case studies presented in my thesis. On the basis of such comparison, it can be shown that both the “world view” and the “model of the world” are necessary to be understood as dynamic categories.

In the third chapter, I analyze chosen literary examples of the First Czechoslovak Republic’s “authoritative discourse” (a notion coined by M. M. Bakhtin), namely biographies of so called great men. The genre of schematized stories about lives of the canonized personalities of the era (for example T. G. Masaryk) makes it impossible for its authors to distinguish themselves with any significance on the level of the model of the world. Although their interpretations of a chosen event from the life of such great man may differ, it is usually possible to rank them under the frame of authoritative discourse. However, a set of similar choices among various possibilities creates something we may call the world view of the implied author.

In the fourth and fifth chapters, I inquire into the various configurations between the model of the world, the world view and the so called interpretive community, existing within the context of literary field of Czechoslovakia in the third decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. I take the interpretive community to mean a certain group identity, which defines itself on the platform of delimiting someone as a member (or a guest member, supporter and so forth) or a non-member, and also of assuming predecessors. For example, Benjamin Klička was first accepted by the leading critic of the social realist group Blok, Bedřich Václavěk, as a guest member.

He could have become a full member only if he had succumbed in his subsequent literary work to the critic's requirements.

Besides Klička, in my other case studies I trace also the relationships between the group Blok and the positions of two other authors, Julius Fučík and Vítězslav Nezval. In addition, the chapter five presents analyses of several works of two conservatively minded writers, František Zavřel and Rudolf Medek, whose models of the world I connect with the discourse of the subscribers of the *Zvon* magazine.

**Key words:** World View, Model of the World, Interpretive Community, Authoritarian discourse, Discourse, Mentality, Ideology, Literature, Czech literature, Socialism, Conservatism, Benjamin Klička, Vítězslav Nezval, Julius Fučík, František Zavřel, Rudolf Medek