

CHAPTER 23

GERMANIC AND ROMANCE STUDIES

Doctoral Theses

01. BHATNAGAR (Shreya)
Reconstruction of Memory and Vergangenheitsbewältigung in Hans-Ulrich Treichel's Trilogy (Rekonstruktion der Erinnerung und Vergangenheitsbewältigung in Hans-Ulrich Treichels Trilogie).
Supervisors : Dr. Farida Irani and Dr. Rosy Singh
Th 24200

Abstract
(Not Verified)

The thesis mainly deals with the trilogy of the German contemporary writer Hans-Ulrich Treichel which constitutes *Lost (Der Verlorene)* (1998), *A Man's Flight (Menschenflug)* (2005) and *Anatolin (Anatolin)* (2008). These novels address the long repressed topic of escape and expulsions of ethnic Germans towards the end of Second World War from Eastern Europe. Approximately 14 million German civilians were deported or fled from Yugoslavia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Baltic region towards the end of Second World War. On their route towards west, the Germans were pillaged and raped by the advancing Soviet army. The uprooted Germans were gradually rehabilitated in the present day Germany. There they faced many social and political difficulties to adapt in the war-torn society. The primary works demonstrate the adverse and long-lasting effects of this traumatic event on the war and post-war generation. The dissertation elucidates the connection between trauma, memory and personal identity in the text corpus. The dissertation demonstrates that memory is the main motif of Treichel's trilogy which plays a pivotal role at both extradiegetic and intradiegetic levels. Treichel condenses his personal memories in the literary works and thereby achieves a collective relevance. In this way Treichel overcomes the characteristic discrepancy between individual memory and official remembrance of German post-war history. Through his works, he makes a transition from the individual memory to the collective memory.

Contents

1. Einleitung 2. Theorieteil 3. Analyseteil 4. Schluss. Literaturverzeichnis.

02. CHAKARVORTY (Taruna)
The Portrayal of the Woman in Narconovels (El retrato de las mujeres en las narconovelas).
Supervisor : Prof. Minni Sawhney
Th 24199

Abstract
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My research focuses on women in the world of drug trafficking and their image in the literature devoted to this phenomenon: the narco novel. The war on drugs started by the Nixon administration in the United States was consolidated by Ronald Reagan. As a result, legitimate opium cultivation for the production of morphine after the Second World War that

had the blessings of the U.S. and Mexican governments, was declared illegal and a “crime against health”. In 1977, Mexico launched the biggest drive against the traffic of drugs through Operation Condor and overnight thousands of opium cultivators lost their livelihoods in the Mexican state of Sinaloa. To fill the vacuum of drug consumption in the United States, the narcotics business became a coveted activity and with the withdrawal of the State, private enterprise in league with drug money has flourished. The narco novel ploughs through the historical and contemporary memory of Mexico and Colombia. One of the striking novelties of the neoliberal age has been the growing presence of women and my thesis retraces the image of the woman in the novels of the Mexican Revolution till contemporary times. The culture of post feminism has been useful in positioning the woman narcotics trafficker who is now not an object but a subject with freedom of choice. She believes in natural sexual difference and uses this to her advantage in a highly sexualized culture. These are some of the stable characteristics of post feminism that the female protagonists of Arturo Pérez Reverte and Orfa Alarcón (Mexico) and Antonio López, Juan Camilo Ferrand (Colombia) in my study share. In this thesis my intention is not to exonerate the violence perpetrated often by women in the drug trade but to attempt an understanding of their motivations and the societies that have engendered them.

Contents

1. El retrato de las mujeres en las novelas de la revolution Maxicana 2. El neoliberalismo y el retrato de lkas mujeres en narconovelas 3. El retrato de las mujeres exitosas en narconovelas. Conclusion. Bibliografia.

03. SINGH (Pratishtha)

Italian Alternate History : Representation of Mussolini in Urchronic Novels (Storia Alternativa Italiana : La Rappresentazione Di Mussolini Nei Romanzi Ucronici)

Supervisor : Prof. Minni Sawhney

Th 24201

Abstract (Not Verified)

The present study focusses on alternate history novels in contemporary Italian literature to understand and analyze the genre and special features of Italian alternate histories. The primary scope is to study the resuscitation of Mussolini in the Italian imagination in these novels. Mussolini the character, has been studied viz.-a-viz. Mussolini-the historical dictator. I consulted biographies by Renzo De Felice *Mussolini, il fascista* (2007) and *Mussolini, il duce* (2007-2008). Along with De Felice’s works on Fascism and Emilio Gentile’s *Fascismo: Storia e interpretazione* (2002). I study differences and similarities in these two portrayals –historical and fictional - and reasons for author’s choice. Main theories on time, literature and time in literature are taken from: *The Alternate History: Refiguring Historical Time* (2001) by Karen Hellekson, *The World Hitler Never Made: Alternate History and Memory of Nazism* (2005) by Gavriel D. Rosenfeld, *Metahistory: The Historical Imagination in Nineteenth-Century Europe* (1973) by Hayden White. 3 primary texts are *Occidente* (2001) by Mario Farneti, *Nero Italiano* (2004) by Giampietro Stocco and *La Nostra Guerra* (2008) by Enrico Brizzi. Each chapter presents a detailed analysis of these novels and is divided into four parts: theoretical approach to analysis, analytical summary of the novel, its detailed analysis and character sketch of protagonists with special attention to Mussolini’s character. The narrators of these novels shed light on the past and illuminate the contemporary state of the Italian nation. The novels depict prolonged rule of Fascism, but the narrator is far from being an apologist for fascism. Mussolini and fascism have been problematized. History has been stripped off its sanctimonious cloak which made it a paradigm of pedagogical ethical behavior. The fictitious

history, in being entirely imaginary, is absolute. The conclusion highlights the reader's perception of the imagined Mussolini in relation to his/her present.

Contents

1. Introduction 2. La Nostra Guerra 3. Occidente 4. Nero italiano 5. Conclusion.