

## (POST)-BRECHT THEATRE: LEHRSTÜCK AS A MACROSYSTEM

Larysa O. Fedorenko. Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University (Ukraine)

E-mail: fvm34@ukr.net

DOI: 10.32342/2523-4463-2020-1-19-9

**Key words:** *Lehrstück, learning-play, epic theater, Verfremdungseffekt, post-Brecht theatre, postdramatic theatre, dialectical theater, analytic theater, microsystem, macrosystem, modification of the plot.*

The article investigates origins, development and peculiarities of poetic manner of Lehrstück ("learning" drama) as exemplified in Bertolt Brecht's (1898–1956) and Heiner Müller's (1919–1995) plays. Lehrstück is a kind of a thesis play, political and pedagogical art for non-professional audience that highlights important social and political issues and analyses them through dialectical approach. Being a specific artistic and philosophical form, Lehrstück transformed passive reception of art and became a foundation for future epic drama. Lehrstück is viewed as a dynamic genre, not as a «conventional» theatrical form. They distinguish a certain developmental pattern for this genre: didactic play of experimental character → didactic play with features of parable → didactic play focusing on analytical position of the recipient → Lern-Spiel (learning play) → didactic play with components of epic and dialectical drama.

The nature of Lehrstück is syncretical and embraces descriptive and expressive features of different kinds of art (words, songs, music, painting, etc.). Hence, Lehrstück is a meta-type of performing arts.

One more feature of Lehrstück includes songs – lyrical and epic component of the dramatic plane that imbues the drama with pragmatic approach towards analytical position of the recipient.

There are two structural levels of the plot in B. Brecht's and H. Müller's Lehrstücke (learning-play), the internal and external one. The external level is represented by the events described in the work, the internal one - by interpretation of these events through reflection and analysis by the viewer/reader and the author.

External plotting details of Lehrstücke include 1) use of adopted material; 2) its modification; 3) each play in Lehrstücke is not isolated, they go in chain. Each one is a separate work that is opposed by a counter play. It can be countered by the third one respectively. Hence, each Lehrstück (each play) is a small system. All the plays constitute a macrosystem, dialectics being its core.

Lehrstück as a macrosystem is 1) a representation of dialectical (analytical) way of thinking; and 2) a dialectical approach to thinking. All aspects of this macrosystem (plot details, motives, etc.) are transfused, actualized and particularized in every link of the chain.

Internal structure of the plot embraces supertext, interpretation by the author and the recipient, use of metaphorization and allegory that contribute to dialectical reframe of events. Interpretation is carried out through songs, editing and other plot-alienation techniques.

## References

1. Brecht, B. *Lehrstücke (navchal`ni p`yesy)* [Lehrstücke (learning plays)]. Zhytomyr, Ruta Publ., 2009, 224 p.
2. Fedorenko, L.O. *Lehrstück yak avtors`ka intentsiia Bertol`ta Brehta* [Lehrstück as the author's intent of Bertolt Brecht]. *Visnyk Zhytomyrs`kogo derzhavnogo universytetu imeni Ivana Franka. Filologichni nauky* [Bulletin of Ivan Franko Zhytomyr State University. Philology], 2011, no. 59, pp. 193-196.
3. Asmuth, B. *Vstup do analizu dramy* [Introduction to drama analysis]. Zhytomyr, ZDU im. I. Franka Publ., 2014, 220 p.
4. Fedorenko, L.O. *Rozvytok zhanru Lehrstück v dramaturhii Khajnera Miullera* [Development of the genre Lehrstück in Heiner Müller's Dramaturgy]. *Visnyk Zhytomyrs`kogo derzhavnogo universytetu imeni Ivana Franka. Filologichni nauky* [Bulletin of Ivan Franko Zhytomyr State University. Philology], 2011, no. 2 (86), pp. 135-139.
5. Yarrow, R. Heiner Muller's Democratic Theater: The Politics of Making the Audience Work. *Journal of European Studies*, 2018, vol. 48, no. 2, pp. 192-196. DOI: 10.1177/0047244118773894g.
6. Meyer, C. Career of a Cleaning Lady or the Voice of the Subalterns - a Relic Hamlet through the Prism of Heiner Muller's Hamletmaschine. *Etudes Germaniques*, 2017, vol. 72, no. 3, pp. 431-447.
7. Jager, A. Peter Hacks, Heiner Muller and the antagonistic Drama of Socialism. A Quarrel in the literary Field of the GDR. *Zeitschrift für Germanistik*, 2017, vol. 27, no. 3, pp. 647-649.
8. Schutte, U. *Mit, gegen und nach Brecht: Heiner Müllers Fatzer* [With, against and after Brecht: Heiner Müller's Fatzer]. *German Life And Letters*, 2016, vol. 69, no. 2, pp. 256-268. DOI: 10.1111/glal.12116.
9. Rayner, F. Texts Waiting for History: William Shakespeare reimagined by Heiner Muller. *Sederi-Yearbook of the Spanish and Portuguese Society for English Renaissance Studies*, 2015, vol. 25, pp. 207-211.
10. Weiler, C. Ghost/Writer. Authorship in Heiner Muller's Late work. *Jahrbuch für Internationale Germanistik*, 2011, vol. 43, no. 1, pp. 233-238.

11. Puh, R. Three Mainstays of Heiner Muller's Dramas. *Knjizevna Smotra*, 2009, vol. 43, no. 1, pp. 123-136.

12. Fedorenko, L.O. «Lehrstück» – «Lesestück» – «Schaustück» (*Mistse i rol' hliadacha v «navchal'nomu» teatri Bertol'ta Brekhta*) ["Lehrstück" – "Lesestück" – "Schaustück" (The Place and the Role of Spectator in Bertolt Brecht's "Learning" Theatre)]. *Visnyk Zhytomyrs'koho derzhavnoho universytetu imeni Ivana Franka. Filolohichni nauky* [Bulletin of Ivan Franko Zhytomyr State University. Philology], 2009, no. 44., pp. 226-229.

13. Müller, H. *Gesammelte Irrtümer 2. Interviews und Gespräche* [Collected errors 2. Interviews and conversations]. Frankfurt am Main Publ., 1996, p. 20.

14. Veremchuk, Yu. V. *P'iesy-prytcha. Heneza. Poetyka*. Avtoref. dis. kand. filol. nauk [Parable play. Genesis. Poetics. Extended abstract of cand. philol. sci. diss.]. Kyiv, 2005, 19 p.

15. Steinweg, R. *Auf Anregung Bertolt Brechts: Lehrstücke mit Schülern, Arbeitern, Theaterleuten* [At the suggestion of Bertolt Brecht: learning plays with students, workers, theater people]. Herausgegeben von Reiner Steinweg. Frankfurt a.M., Suhrkamp Verlag, 1978, 328 p.

16. Brecht, B. *Die Maßnahme* [The Decision]. Frankfurt a.M., Suhrkamp Publ., 1972, 602 p.

17. Fedorenko L.O. «Zakhid» B. Brekhta: trahediia chy «navchal'na vprava»? [«The Decision» («Die Maßnahme») by B. Brecht: a Tragedy or Learning-Exercise?] *Visnyk Zhytomyrs'koho derzhavnoho universytetu imeni Ivana Franka. Filolohichni nauky* [Bulletin of Ivan Franko Zhytomyr State University. Philology], 2013, no. 70., pp. 303-308.

Одержано 17.12.2019.