

ABSTRACTS

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«THE VOCATION» BY RODENBACH: THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE MOTIFS OF ROMANTICISM

The article analyzes the specific features of the poetics of the novel «The Vocation» by the Belgian writer Rodenbach, the way it interprets the romantic traditions of symbolism. It researches the nature of the inner conflict of the character, driven by the ideal of the religious service to God but unable to overcome his sensual passion. The symbolic image turns into a parable, expressing the tragic search for the absolute, where two worlds coexist, creating the essential foundation of life.

The novel «The Vocation» appeals to the central theme of the author's works – loneliness of a human, the bearer of the beauty which is «the radiance of the soul», aspiring to God. Rising to romanticism, the theme of incompatibility between the reality and ideal, which was close to the Symbolists, became the central one in the autobiographical novel *L'Art en exil* (1889), novels *Bruges-la-Morte* (1892) and *The Bells of Bruges* (*Le carillonneur*, 1897), a number of poetic cycles of Rodenbach. The given theme in the novel is embodied in connection with the Christian-religious vocation of the character.

Rodenbach depicts the story of the protagonist's whole life. Its volume and structure makes it closer to a short story and a poem rather than a novel. Being psychological and poetic, it is focused on an analytical depiction of the twists and turns of the plot, on the development of symbolic meanings. It is naturally connected with poetics and the problems of Romanticism, with the works of Rodenbach on the whole. Romantic motifs are the most important component in the symbolistically structured artistic space, which reveals «the ideal prototypes hidden under the sensual veil».