

## Female Characters and Their Roles in Selected Works by Heinrich Böll

This research deals with the examination of the metamorphosis of consciousness of the female characters in the writings by Heinrich Böll. With his narrative strategies, the author creates these characters in his fictitious world by linking them to his own experiences during the war and his life in the Rhine area. It can be observed that there was a process from the resistance to the refusal of the morality or the norms of society by these women.

Böll explicitly outlined the gender specific problems of these women in the post war years of the 1950s. Church as an institution is critically examined because his female characters are confronted with serious conflicts and issues caused by the ecclesiastic doctrine of matrimonial sacrament and the prohibition of the use of contraception.

In the 1960s, especially in his novel *The Clown (Ansichten eines Clowns)*, Böll dealt with Catholicism and its role not only in the religious life of the individual but also in society. From the 1970s on, Böll's characters are less dependent on the strength of the ecclesiastic doctrine but it is clear that the religious norms of Catholicism have been internalized in their daily life.

This is why Catholicism has a specific function in the early works of the author. The premises of the main part of the examination are Catholicism in Böll's works (in the context of sexual morality) and his biographical background.

Both the causes of the problems of women in roles which are full of conflicts and the solutions of these conflicts are discussed in this dissertation.