

Despite the fact that the period of contemporary literary criticism about E.T.A. Hoffmann's work lasted only for about ten years, a huge number of critical documents can be found. A general stocktaking of these texts is missing just as a deeper understanding of the methodical analysis of such a variety of documents. In addition to the Hoffmann specific position of research the situation of the transition of the literary criticism from the "Romantik" to the new forms of the "Junges Deutschland" must be taken into account. This period is marked by a mixture of critical standards from the "Spätaufklärung", "Klassik" and the "Romantik". Moreover a general lack of methodical understanding regarding the analysis of valuation in these documents is noticeable. This thesis joins the stocktaking of critical documents about Hoffmann with a method of analysis, which makes it possible to measure up the general aspects of valuation with the genuine quality of the author's literary work. This "multilayered" approach will satisfy even the historical aspects of valuation and the element of ingenuity of fiction itself. The examination of the main issues concerning the contemporary literary criticism to Hoffmann's work is bundled in six case studies. The historical and aesthetical terms and conditions of the reception of the respective work are closely examined taking into account the pivotal factors of the contemporary reception.