

## **Cristina Spinei**

### History as Literature – Literature as History. About Auschwitz (Summary)

As the generations of survivors disappear one after the other, and the history of the third Reich can hardly be found in the biographies of those who still live today, the specialists (the authors) are confronted with the necessity to watch the literature on Holocaust on the historical background it resulted from.

Germany's authoritarian past is presented as one of the main themes in the after-war German literature. In many texts, the issue of the Nazi regime criminals' guilt is analysed, as well as the possibility to 'process' this historical burden and memoirs or commemorative works writings are attempted. The fact that the Holocaust is written about to such extent, that these books are going to be read by a numerous public home and abroad, is a proof of the actuality of the issue and of the long-lasting influence that Germany's national-socialist past exerts on today's generation. The texts subsuming today the "Literature on Holocaust" place the reader in front of a terrifying reality and an unimaginable lack of humanity. There are many writings on national-socialism and its criminals and especially on the Holocaust and, to the same extent, on anti-Semitism and its long history.

A literature through which all those people who lost their brothers, parents and children in Auschwitz get reconnected to the horrors of the camp. A literature that should express less aesthetics and more ethic on the horrors that occurred there, as this is the only way to provoke a faithful reproduction of the unmeasurable pain of those who were directly involved.

The question that the study wishes to answer is simple: "How far can one go in writing on this phenomenon and how far should one stop?"

The literature of the Holocaust cannot be seen as an aesthetic phenomenon. This is maybe the best example on the indissoluble relation between literature and history.

Starting from the premise that the research on the novel on Holocaust needs an interdisciplinary research, the writing aims at presenting an overview of the different means of expression used in the specialist literature on the Holocaust: in other words, by which means did the authors formulate their reflections on the Shoah.

What could literature offer to historical report? Why could not literature separate from history?

To what extent is history important for literature? Here are as many questions that the study tries to answer.

**Keywords:** Holocaust, guiltiness, collective memory, commemoration, literature