

**Title**

The problem of loneliness in the existential literature

**Abstract**

The dissertation aims to show the issue of loneliness in selected works of existential literature. Revealing the mutual entanglement of literature and philosophy, it raises several fundamental problems. Firstly, it organizes the current reflection on loneliness, presents various ways of perceiving and recognizing it. At the same time, the paper exposes the specificity of the individual experience of loneliness, referring to selected works of existential literature. The issue of loneliness, bearing in mind its multithreading and multidimensionality, is shown here in the context of fundamental existential questions, especially about the place and the role of man in the world and the sense of human existence itself.

Secondly, the dissertation exposes the phenomenon of existentialism, emphasizing its main motives (themes), its diversity and its programmatically anti-systemic (non-scientific) character. The paper states that existentialism is the meeting point of philosophy and literature (prose, especially). Its specificity lies in the fact that not only is it one of the most important currents in contemporary philosophy, which – with varying degrees of intensity – contests the idealistical and positivistically-scientific orientation of the European contemporary tradition. The boundaries between philosophy and literature are also blurred and pointing to the literariness of philosophy and the philosophical character of literature. Here, literature becomes a kind of “area” of philosophical expression, while philosophy manifests itself “in” and “through” literature.

Thirdly, the dissertation shows the antinomic (dialectical) character of human existence, paying attention to the dialectical connection between loneliness and socialization (community, coexistence). Loneliness can be perceived as an inseparable element of self-development, and even as a condition of authentic “being oneself”, including self-determination, self-knowledge and self-understanding. But sometimes it is associated with the absurd, tragic and existential crises.

The dissertation, touching on the indicated issues, emphasizes the importance of literary works in the study of existentialism. It does not present an universal image of loneliness, but rather – in the aletheic spirit – shows it in the context of fundamental philosophical and existential inquiries, and at the same time within the basic experiences of human existence. Thus, the paper draws a map of the problem of loneliness (its subjective experience), outlining certain points and paths between them.

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