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Title: The Social Alienation in the Age of Globalization on the Example of Aldo Nove's Work

SUMMARY

The dissertation is devoted to the prose of Aldo Nove – also a poet and a philosopher by education – born in 1967 in an Italian village Viggiù. The analysis of his texts written between 1996 and 2018 helped to trace the evolution of his writing, which concerns both the subject matter and new stylistic choices. The writer begins his prose career with *splatter* stories that can be attributed to the so called *pulp* genre associated also with “Young Cannibals” to turn at the beginning of 21st century to reportage and coming-of-age story and finally to literature referring to human spirituality. The selected works were read through the prism of social alienation which occurs in the present times of developing consumerism. The aim of the dissertation is to provide an answer to the question of how this phenomenon is reflected in the Italian writer's stories over the thirty years of his activity. Another relevant query is to decide whether it is – according to the writer's vision – related to the cult of materialism manifested in the mass production of goods and the dissemination of information by the media. Furthermore, it was necessary to verify if the author, despite concentrating on modern times, is looking for universal values concerning human spirituality, thus offering a remedy for the poor – as can be seen from his work – condition of society. The analysis took into account the main theoreticians of alienation who inspired the author himself – such as Rousseau, Hegel, Marx. However the most important reference point in the context of the present research were contemporary texts of the German researcher Rahel Jaeggi who formulates a new definition of the term of alienation on the basis of the theories created over the years. The German suggests a subjective approach to the concept, according to which the quality of the relation of a human being with himself and with the world determines whether he is free or alienated.

The present doctoral thesis is composed of five chapters. The first discusses the alienation concept, which was used in the analysis of Aldo Nove's texts. The second is dedicated to the reception of the Italian's prose in Poland and in the world, while the last three include an examination of selected texts in accordance with the subsequent stages of his work.

The considerations presented in the dissertation show that over thirty years of his career the author has explored the alienation topic in his writing, which can be seen also in the new

stylistic solutions. The Italian associates the poor human condition with capitalism and with the focus of an individual on material needs at the expense of interpersonal relationships. The protagonists of his debut short story collection *Woobinda* manifest the state of alienation through their one-dimensionality which is manifested in the lack of any individual character traits or reflectiveness. Such construction of the characters alludes to the mass scale idea created by the consumerist system and to the human reification. Such a condition of the modern society is caused not exclusively by the fact that an individual is dominated by material goods but also by ideologies and trends promoted in mass media. In *Puerto Plata market*, the writer alludes to the search for love in the world where everything, even interpersonal relations, is connected with obtaining financial resources. In order to show such a vision of the world, he decides to talk about the exploitation of the Dominican Republic's inhabitants in contrast with the flourishing Western tourism.

While the characters presented by the author in his texts from the 1990s are passive and not willing to take any action to improve their situation, the protagonists in the works published in the new millennium seem to be more aware of the mechanisms that rule the social system and are able to express their dissatisfaction. Among other things, Nove points at the phenomenon of the precariat as a result of capitalism, which he supports with interviews with selected Italians included in the reportage *Mi chiamo Roberta, ho 40 anni, guadagno 250 euro al mese...*. In *Amore mio infinito* he begins to use a child's perspective on the world in his narration. This innocent and – in a certain way – not contaminated by the influence of social patterns view turns out to be a perfect contribution to the analysis of the present. The more a child grows up, the more he becomes adapted in a conformist way to arbitrarily imposed expectations, which is presented also with the help of linguistic devices in each chapter of the book. The writer also raises the issue of social roles, which limit human freedom. In the fictional novel inspired by his biography, *La vita oscena*, Nove tells the story of a young man, who, having lost both of his parents, embarks on a metaphorical journey through his own, deeply hidden feelings. Unfortunately, it is another protagonist experiencing difficulties in freeing himself from the alienation.

In the third phase of his work, Nove suggests a possible remedy for this state of being. Thus, he calls for the human search for transcendence in order to establish a relationship with himself and with the world (also the spiritual one). The characters of the novel *Tutta la luce del mondo* – saint Francis of Assisi and his nephew – and *Il Professore di Viggiù* – a mysterious Professor – are looking for their own life paths, which is always associated with the rejection of social customs. In such a way, the Italian writer finally presents silhouettes of characters who

try to free themselves from the alienation by establishing an authentic relationship with the world. However, the general view of the present times remains pessimistic, since, according to what arises from presented novels, only certain individuals (never represented by the narrator himself) are conscious enough to realize the hopelessness of their own situation and to take the risk of escaping, its very necessity indicates that it is impossible to reach freedom inside the consumerist system. Indeed, saint Francis in the first novel becomes an hermit to reach it, while the Professor from the second escapes into some kind of other dimension and becomes a being in the form of Hindu Brahman. The references to the subject of spirituality in the last stage of Nove's writing may justify classifying his latest works as post-secular literature, which is a good starting point for further analysis.