

## **The influence of worldview of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Kant and the French Revolution on Kleist's novel *The Earthquake in Chile***

**Ardalan Mahyari\***

Ph.D. of German Language and Literature, Faculty of Letters, Science and Research  
Department of Azad University, Tehran, Iran

**Massoud Salami\*\***

Assistant Professor in German Language and Literature, Faculty of Letters, Science  
and Research Department of Azad University, Tehran, Iran

(Received: 10<sup>th</sup>, May, 2015, Accepted: 21<sup>st</sup>, May, 2017)

*The Earthquake in Chile*, a novella, not only represents the worldview, but also depicts the defeat and disability of individuals in the face of social constitutions, destiny and natural disasters. From Kleist's points of view, reaching the fact in his life is his life's priority. He does not believe in revolutions. Rather he believes in a deep social change which might be possible through providing education by the society. In *The Earthquake in Chile*, Kleist postulates that the world is unrestrained. He also adds that disappointment, lack of reliance, social injustice, destruction of human values, and so on are rooted in lay people's weakness, and inappropriate purposeful activities by the powers. Kleist also harshly criticizes the powers responsible for human rights violations, and humans and world's annihilation. Cosmology, thoughts and divine justice from Kleist's insight are mostly compiled from John Jacque Rouse, Kant, Voltaire, and Leibniz's works. Through Kleist's masterpiece, deep social background changes appear in the audience's mind through images and memories.

**Key words:** Bernd Wilhelm Heinrich von Kleist, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, German Literature, "The earthquake in Chile" Novel, the French Revolution.

---

\* E-Mail: ardalan\_eddy@yahoo.de

\*\* E-Mail: drmsalami@yahoo.com