



University of Tehran press

Research in Contemporary World Literature

<http://jor.ut.ac.ir>, Email: pajuhesh@ut.ac.ir

p-ISSN : 2588-4131 e-ISSN: 2588 -7092

Herta muller's nostalgic and critical look at his native culture in the novel "Animal Heart"

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Article Info

Article type:

Research Article

Article history:

Received: 06 January 2022

Received in revised form: 17 February 2022

Accepted: 26 February 2022

Published online: Autumn 2024

Keywords:

migration literature , critical nostalgic, native culture , Herta muller, Animal heart.

Extended ABSTRACT

Herta Müller is a writer of Romanian origin who left her country to live in Germany at the peak of Nicolae Ceausescu's dictatorship. Following Müller's migration to Germany, her nostalgic and critical view of her native culture is reflected in her works. *Heart Animal* or *The Land of Green Plums* (1994) is one of those works in which Müller honestly narrates her life story. The current paper seeks to find out how the author's critical nostalgic elements and functions towards her native culture are manifested in this novel. Using the analytical-descriptive method, this paper shows that political and social conditions are the most important underlying factors of Müller's nostalgic and critical view of her native culture in this novel. After her emigration, Müller still has not gotten over the nostalgia of her homeland and talks about issues such as fear, betrayal, and death-mindedness ruling his land, which forces her to emigrate. Müller's nostalgic look in this work is a personal and social look. In this novel, she is the narrator of the tense and desperate life of people whose lives have been destroyed by fear and oppression, people who have to submit to any kind of violence in order to escape from their homeland, yet they are unaware of the fact that their life after migration is strongly influenced by their life before migration. Müller honestly narrates her life story in this book, consciously or unconsciously talking about issues such as anonymity, oppression, and social rejection. She puts the issues that occupied her mind from her homeland when she arrived in the destination country on paper. The main issue addressed in this paper is how the term nostalgia or longing for the past, as a form of unconscious behavior in humans, has always had a great impact on the content and expressions of writers, especially writers who have migrated from their homeland, since the category of immigration not only causes changes in people's lives, but it also changes their social status. Nostalgia appears more in the works of writers who have stronger feelings. Müller is one of the authors whose works are full of nostalgic concepts. Therefore, this article is an attempt to examine and analyze Herta Müller's critically nostalgic view of her native culture and its effects in *Heart Animal*.

Cite this article: Jafari, Nahid. " Müller's nostalgic and critical look of his native culture in the novel *Animal Heart* " *Research in Contemporary World Literature*, 2024, 29 (2), 289-314. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22059/jor.2022.336975.2262>.



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Publisher: University of Tehran Press.

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22059/jor.2022.336975.2262>.