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Sociologist as a vanguard - Ivo Andrić and the Albanian question²

*Freedom, full freedom, it is a dream, which usually is not destined to be realized, but poor is every man who have never dreamed it.*³

- Ivo Andrić

Taking into account the very context of the book by Milojica M. Šutović clearly are visible the deep-rooted ties of sociology and literature, which is recognizable from the very title of this very interesting sociological - historical - literary work. "I just want to show, to paraphrase my weakness of Nietzsche, that it might be without Andrić, but the sociologist is not allowed to be - without Andrić, as the philosopher is not allowed to be without Wagner.

... As Nietzsche would say, aesthetics is no other than applied psychology as well as the literature is applied sociology even more filled with life and imagination..."⁴

Before discussing the work itself, it is important to point out the basic meaning of the concepts of sociology of literature and literary sociology. Sociology of Literature is the part of a special sociology which is basically the study of the external context of literature, thereby ignoring the literary form itself and the assessment and value of the literary works. On the other hand, literary sociology is a special method of literary studies, at the same time, marking literature as the social - historical phenomenon. In this regard, in

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² Milojica Šutović, *Sociologist as a vanguard - Ivo Andrić and the Albanian question*. Belgrade: Čigoja štampa. 2013.

³ Ivo Andrić, *Signs along the way*. Belgrade: „Rad“. 1980. p 39.

⁴ The Same. p 9.

simplest terms - Sociology of Literature is the way of studying the types of literature that explore the relationship of literary works and social context in which the work was created.⁵

In this work, the author, by citing Figen, states the following: “The ability of a book as a literary document, with the proper methodical handling, to be made useful for sociology, we can not generally dispute. From such a procedure, the specific sociology of literature can only benefit. Because literary and sociological statement concerns the behavior of the writer against his social environment.”

Be sure to keep in mind that the literary works, as well as literature itself, as such, can successfully be “connected” with other social sciences and disciplines, and in this regard we recognize the policy of literature. “Andrić certainly took account of what is expressed as policy of literature, which means that literature deals with politics leaving literature, and assumes the existence of the intrinsic link between politics as a particular form of the collective practice and literature as the established practice of the art of writing.”⁶

Šutović introduces us to the policy of Andrić, emphasizing that the policy of literature is not what is the policy of a writer, and that, in fact, a policy of the writer Andrić was and still is very mysterious and mystified, explaining that in certain historical periods mystification was often used as a “technique of managing the impressions in the dramaturgy of social life”.

The author of this work tries to present a comprehensive Andrić’s personality and character from different aspects, incorporating into his book the observations of a large number of influential individuals, as well Andrić’s contemporaries, and those who have their “glory” acquired after his death. What is important to emphasize, as the author himself says, is “Andrić’s power of adapting to the external environment and the ability to adapt, in spite of serious fractures and changes in social orders and their ideology.” Because we do need to bear in mind that Andrić lived in a time of the great social turmoil and political and ideological changes. As the author himself points out, the settled opinion is that the pragmatic, loyalty, political correctness, patience and withdrawal, as well as refraining from the loud and transparent opting for a particular way made possible the Andrić’s influence in all political regimes that have changed in the Balkans during his lifetime. “As a man of exceptional self-control to Andrić was not unimportant to have, and he knew that the most important thing is to be, not only to learn about yourself,

⁵ Source: <http://www.enciklopedija.hr/natuknica.aspx?id=56945> Taken on: 21.02.2016.

⁶ Milojica Šutović, *Sociologist as a vanguard - Ivo Andrić and the Albanian question*. Belgrade: Čigoja štampa. 2013. p 11-12

but also to remain what you are.”⁷ It is this approach to the social and political realities that enabled Andrić the position of the senior officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia between the two world wars, as well as the member of the Yugoslav diplomacy in the government of Milan Stojadinović (1937).

During this period, namely in 1939 is formed the Andrić's Study on Albania, which Šutović in this book places on the central place as a topic that does not lose its importance, especially if we take into account the present conditions in which is Serbia when it comes to the division of Kosovo. “... Starting from the traditional policy of Serbia” Balkan to Balkan peoples, “Andrić in conclusion of the Study on Albania proposes: avoiding conflicts with Italy to prevent it to occupy all of Albania, allowing its division as a” necessary and inevitable evil that can not be resisted “; as” a lot of damage “from which it has to benefit, as much as it can be ..”⁸

In the introduction to this book, the author believes that Andrić was certainly aware of the history and sociology in his, as he says, “literary and diplomatic monument”, and with that thought he is lead in the overall book, relying not only on Andrić, but also on many giants in literature, and philosophy, art, politics and sociology.

The book *Sociologist as a vanguard - Ivo Andrić and the Albanian question* is divided into 18 chapters plus a preface and annexes in which is the original text of Ivo Andrić called “The Study of Mr Andrić 30. 1. 1939.” As it is already noted, the author comprehensively captures the character and work of the nobel Prize winner, placing his diplomatic and literary activities in different socio - historical contexts under different political and ideological circumstances. In this sense Šutović says: “In building his CV Andrić has undoubtedly as ancient Hellens, harbored a love of literature, dialectic, thinking, contemplation, originality and degree. Proverbially secretive, especially about his diplomatic past, well-read and well-informed, ambitious and sensitive, polite and courteous, Andrić was a man of compromise, not conflict, a man of tolerance and waiting, a man of golden middle in which extremes are intersected... one withdrawn, discrete and powerful figure of a thinker to whom a sociologist is only a scout”.

We think it is one of the reasons why the author, when we talk about this sensitive issue that relates to the Albanian people, and now the current division of Kosovo, opted for a study of Ivo Andrić on the Albanian issue, counting on his impartiality and rational proposal (in this time regarding Albania), especially if we bear in mind the radical attitudes, and today's individuals in

⁷ The Same p 12.

⁸ The Same p 27-28

public life. However, it is important to point out that Andrić's impartiality and "moodiness" many interpreted in different ways, even in a negative context calling him (especially during his diplomatic mission in Berlin) the "German man" and as the author says: "He is according to some contemporaries in his work very cautious, shifty, devious, exemplary student of Machiavelli and Guicciardini, which served him as a model for understanding the mechanism of history and were the instruction in the diplomatic work ... "

A special contribution to the understanding of the work *Sociologist* as a vanguard, referring primarily to Andrić's proposed solution of the "Albanian question" that Serbia is also facing today, and the proposed solution for the same, provided the Šutović's detailed analysis of Andrić's studies and his personality in general (with different aspects) and historical - political circumstances in which the Balkan was, focusing on Serbia.

It is clear that the question of which Andrić speaks not only in his study but also in his literary creations in general, essentially is the same today, showing only in different forms, in quite different circumstances where "necessary and inevitable evil which can not be resisted," everyone understands and interpret in their own way, but it certainly provides the insight into the situation as it was and as it is.

By providing insight into Andrić's description of inhabitants of the 'Damned Yard' Šutović suggests a parallel with the inhabitants of Kosovo, to which others look like "on the quarantine, and its inhabitants as a dangerous and difficult to cure patients that by various measures, penalties and fear, physical and moral insulation should be kept away from the so-called healthy and fair world. To not let them out of their circle, but to not touch them without having it to, because of this touching anything good or wise can not give birth ".⁹ An unreal space, which is hard to believe that exists in the so-called democratic times, where Karađoz - "the manager of this strange and terrible facilities" - is precisely the international community.

„...Even today, one hundred and twenty years from Andrić's birth and a century since the liberation of Kosovo, a historian, and Andrić was widely seen as a writer - historian or sociologist, but with no doubt I dare to say that Andrić is the writer - sociologist, we would not be able to add anything a bit more precise, not only in describing the social reality of Kosovo, but also in the diagnosis of its future, and not only Kosovo, but also the problems of the modern society, especially of technological development, the emergence on the film, especially the US.¹⁰

⁹ Ivo Andrić, *The Damned Yard*, Belgrade: Prosveta. 1968.

¹⁰ Milojica Šutović, *Sociologist as a vanguard - Ivo Andrić and the Albanian question*. Belgrade Čigoja štampa. 2013. p 89.

In the second row of the contribution of this work, but equally important, is certainly the correlation between the writers and sociologists, for which in both, the field of literature, and sociology, we have many examples, especially if we are talking about literary works and authors that have left an indelible mark in the time and space, as it certainly was and Ivo Andrić.

Literature

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