

REVIEW

of

Ph. D. thesis, submitted by Mihrije Maloku-Morina,

student at New Bulgarian University

Thesis Title: *DREISER AS A STEADY CRITIC OF SOCIAL INJUSTICE*

Reviewer Prof. Dr. Kornelia Slavova

St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia

(abstract)

The review discusses the content, structure, and importance of the dissertation entitled “Dreiser as a Steady Critic of Social Injustice” (overall length of 189 pages). It is argued that the major strength of the dissertation is its first-time exploration of Theodore Dreiser’s significance as a writer and social critic of the US in communist Albania and today’s Kosovo, referring to major translations and critical reception of the American author in the respective contexts. The dissertation explores Dreiser’s status as a critic of social injustice by tracing major autobiographical and journalistic elements in his representation of American society during the Gilded Age. Special attention is paid to major social conflicts and themes as represented in the seven novels under discussion such as poverty, social and economic crises, crime, the American dream, unemployment, and social division as well as character types and relationships. The review also looks at some weaknesses of the dissertation related to its methodology, the failure to define clearly the aims and research questions of the study, the overall organization and structure of the text as well as some technical problems related to the inconsistent manner of referencing and quoting. Taking into consideration all said, the reviewer concludes that the thesis generally meets the NBU requirements for acquiring a PhD degree.