



 Research Article

A GLANCE AT GERMAN LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

Anna Seghers is one of the strongest, most active, most effective writers of German literature of the 20th century. Anna Seghers is the pen name of the writer, whose real name is Netty Reiling. Even if fascism reached its peak and threatened the whole world, the writer believed for a lifetime that the German people would be saved from this calamity, and he actively fought with all his might for the restoration of such a free-minded Germany. It is worth saying that Anna Seghers is a great thinker, both as a writer and as an active organizer.

KEYWORDS

Anna Seghers, 20th-century German literature, expressionist style, epic canvas.

INTRODUCTION

Nettie Reiling (Anna Seghers) was born in the family of the owner of a store selling antiques and applied art equipment in Mainz. Nettie Reiling, who grew up with a great interest in art,

literature, and history from childhood, studied at the faculties of philology and art history at the universities of Cologne and Heidelberg and successfully graduated from them. She deeply

studies Martin Buber's philosophy, and the works of Balzac, Kafka, Tolstoy, and Rembrandt. She took the pseudonym Seghers from the name of the artist Hercules Seghers, who created in the 17th century, and in 1925, the first story "Dead on the island of Djal", published in the "Frankfurter Zeitung" newspaper, was published under the name of Anna Seghers.

Nettie Reiling (Anna Seghers) has a deep knowledge of the history of world literature, so she has no difficulty in finding her own literary direction, she does not wander in different styles, but starts creating in the classical style, based on social realism. Even in the 1920s, when the expressionist style was gaining strength, and under the influence of this style, she wrote Grubetsch (1926) - a story about poor, helpless people looking for work, and "Ziglers" (Die Zieglern, 1927) - the plight of artisans who lost their jobs. The writer's first step towards realism can be felt in his novella and other works.

Her first major work - "Fishermen's Uprising" (Der Aufstand der Fischer von St. Barbara, 1928) published under the name of Anna Seghers, achieved great success and received the high prize of Weimar Germany - named after G. Kleist.

The story describes the efforts of hard-working people, including the hero of the story Andreas Bruin and his friends, who consciously understand their rights and strive to restore these violated rights, fight against injustice. And such a theme became the main theme in almost all the writer's works.

Fishermen live in extreme conditions and work in extreme conditions, but the wages they receive are not worth the work, let alone enough to live well, not even enough to eat. Those who wanted to feed their family well, devoted all their energy to this work, and in the end, they would only become pitiful. The writer very realistically represented a poor settlement of fishermen, a tract by the sea and the gathering of its inhabitants.

But even in this story, the influence of the expressionist style is felt, for example, Gull, the leader of the rebels, is a brave, intelligent, fair person, but his character and his higher goals are not fully revealed because there are no contradictions in his image. Also, because there are some uncertainties in the principles of space and time of the work, the events have a somewhat abstract image.

Anna Seghers's novels about the revolutionary struggles of workers in "Partners" (Die Gefährten, 1932) and "The Way Through Feral" (Der Weg Durch den Februar, 1935) show that the skill of the writer has increased even more.

The novel "The Seventh Cross" was created in very difficult conditions, that is, it was written and published secretly when the Nazis banned any free thought, art and literature. The novel itself is about the patriots fighting against the Nazi regime, and it expresses the bitter truth: the most courageous, intelligent, strong-willed people who were against the war were tortured and shot in concentration camp.

As a result, the German people were realistically disillusioned, demoralized, and unable to fight Hitler and his regime.

The novel is based on real events - about the escape of seven prisoners from the Westhofen concentration camp. The escape of seven people from the concentration camp at once enrages the Nazis. They take it as an insult. Because at that time, seven people had not tried to escape from any camp. So the camp management, especially the barbarian Farenberg, decides to capture, torture, and kill all the fugitives. He and his partners really start to catch the fugitives one by one, torture them and hang them on crosses. However, their efforts will not end: six fugitives will be caught and killed, but they will not catch the seventh - Georg Geisler. The Gestapo is symbolically defeated in this struggle.

Anna Seghers describes not only the concentration camp and the various places where the fugitive prisoners hid but also the events in the camp. This makes the work even better. The attitude of the people living in the German slums to fascism is fully revealed. That is, it often happens that more powerful and wealthy people try not to bring fugitives close to them or sell them, while poor and honest people try to help them and hide them in safer places. Even with this, the writer was able to express the satisfaction of the regime of that time.

One of the fugitives, Georg Geisler, escapes from the concentration camp and thinks that the inhabitants of the city of Westhofen should be ashamed and blush that there is such a shameful

prison in their area because they could not show any resistance against the war. But when he starts meeting people, he is even surprised to see that peaceful, contented people live carelessly as if they have nothing to do with the war.

But when he begins to pay more attention, he begins to notice that there are people in the city who do not support the Nazis and who are against them, although they are a very small minority, but there are people who believe in the future.

Anna Seghers carefully designed the plot of the work in a very dramatic way. As the plot develops dynamically, the reader reads without looking up from it. In the play, Seghers deliberately used different styles to fully express the events. For example, when he is given the memories of a prisoner in a very difficult and tense situation, the writer describes the scenery of the Rhine in a very lyrical style, that is, he expresses the situation during the war in a very contrasting way.

The author's achievement in this work is that he tried to show the German national character as beautifully as possible, to depict it naturally. He was able to show the behavior of the German people, the way of living, the appearance of the cities, in short, every national detail specific to the Germans with great skill. That is probably why, even in the writing style of the novel, in the language, and in the dialogue between the characters, the nationality, character, and outlook of the Germans can be felt.

The story of "Saboteurs" (Die Saboteure, 1946) is written according to the work "Seventh Cross", as the conclusion of the novel. Characters such as

Franz Marnet, German Schultze, Kress, who helped Geisler in the novel "Seventh Cross", appear again in the story "The Destroyers". They, the anti-war anti-fascists, try to damage the weapons factory and try to stop it, but fail. Because the factory workers do not understand the goal of the anti-fascists, or rather, they refuse to help them for fear of punishment.

Another famous work of Anna Seghers, *The Living Dead* (*Die Toten bleiben Jung*, 1949) contains historical events in Germany between 1918 and 1943: the defeat of the class struggles in Saxony and the Ruhr, inflation and the presidential election, the Reichstag related to the arson and the Munich Agreement, World War II and the Battle of Stalingrad, etc. Of course, Anna Seghers revealed the essence of these events not as a historian, but as a writer. He tried to express the uniqueness of the different strata of the German people. For example, bourgeois production owners like Klemm and Castritzius pay the Nazis to control the workers. And landowners like Wenceslow, Lieven, and Nadler try to serve the Nazis in the hope of getting possession of the occupied lands.

The novel begins with the execution of Erwin, a laborer. Erwin does not have time to tell his girlfriend Maria that he is a revolutionary. Once cheerful, loving life and nature, Maria does not know where he has gone and is forced to marry the worker Geschka, thinking about the future of her son Hans, born to Erwin. Maria, who at first does not understand anything and lives in difficulty, gradually begins to realize that fascism is deceiving and oppressing the workers,

preparing for an invasion and that they have wild plans, and finally she decides to fight against the war. As his son Hans becomes a big boy, he starts to fight with a meaningful understanding of the reality that is happening around him. Especially the worker Martin, who was once a friend of Ervin, who influenced his outlook, sets an example for him. Hans changes completely. But he was called up for military service and sent to the front. At the front, when he was about to defect to the Russian side in the Battle of Stalingrad, Ventslov killed him. The same Wenceslaus who killed Ervin now kills his son. Looking at the face of the dead Hans, Wentzlow remembers Erwin. Only then, Wenceslaus realizes that Hitler and the fascist regime deceived him, his people, and Germany. He admits that fascism, which promised heaven and prosperity, a rich society, was nothing but a disaster, that it created war and used the German people only as a weapon. So, Wenceslov, seeing that Ervin, who once expressed an anti-war opinion and died, appears to him as a young man in the form of Hans, who looks the same as two drops, believes everything - the survival of the dead, or rather, their anti-war ideas are eternal.

Anna Seghers' novel "The Living Dead" can be called an incomparable epic canvas. Through these and other works, the writer was able to reveal the deep roots of fascism and the reasons for its emergence with many works. Even if fascism reached its peak and threatened the whole world, the writer believed for a lifetime that the German people would be saved from this calamity, and he actively fought with all his might

for the restoration of such a free-minded Germany. It is worth saying that Anna Seghers is a great thinker, both as a writer and as an active organizer.

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