Orientalist Discourse in Ivo Andrić's “Bosnian Chronicle”

Frontier Orientalism. Ivo Andrić. Orientalist discourse. Bosnia and Herzegovina. Balkans in literature.

Ivo Andrić’s Bosnian Chronicle represents Travnik as a city on the frontier, the city in a fissure, “a half-open book” which through the novel turns into a symbol of mutual illegibility of the characters. Each one of them remains in a way shut into their own ideas of the other one standing against them, so it becomes clear that this novel writes out the discourse of difference. In this paper, we shall analyze the examples of Orientalist discourse which Andrić incorporated into the novel through the characters that represent the European deputies (Austro-Hungarian and French) in Travnik and through their often stereotypical attitudes towards the country to which they were sent to office.

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