



Autobiography in the Works of Bret Easton Ellis

Christian Hensgens

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Examination Thesis from the year 2006 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1,3, University of Cologne, 77 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: Autobiographische Werke erfreuen sich zunehmender Beliebtheit. Nicht zuletzt unterstreichen ständig steigende Verkaufszahlen den Vormarsch von Autobiographien auf dem Buchsektor und legitimieren diese Textsorten immer deutlicher als eigenständige Gattung. Begriff und Umfang der "Autobiographie" sind dabei umstritten und seit jeher einem geschichtlichen Wandel unterworfen. Was macht eine Autobiographie aus? Was unterscheidet eine Autobiographie vom Roman, was von einer Biographie oder gar von Memoiren? Auf diese und andere Fragen der Begriffsbestimmung einer Autobiographie geht die vorliegende Arbeit ein. Sie gibt nicht nur einen Überblick über den geschichtlichen Wandel des Begriffes, sondern entwickelt außerdem einen Katalog konstituierender Merkmale einer Autobiographie. Anhand dieser Kriterien werden die Werke des US-Erfolgsautors Bret Easton Ellis untersucht und herausgearbeitet, ob und inwiefern sie als autobiographisch bezeichnet werden können. Im Mittelpunkt der Untersuchung steht dabei Ellis' Werk „Lunar Park“, mit dem der Autor den Leser auf eine Reise zwischen Traum und Wirklichkeit schickt. Es ist eine Reise zwischen Autobiographie und Roman, die den Leser in vielfältiger Weise maßregelt und seine Leseerwartung dadurch nachhaltig beeinflussen wird.

This work examines autobiographical theories in their development over the last decades and gives an overview of predominant theoretical approaches until today. Against this background, a catalogue of constitutive conditions of autobiography is being created. In the following, the works of Bret Easton Ellis are examined for these autobiographical characteristics, especially his latest work "Lunar Park" will be in the center of this paper.

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