

Use of Own Reason or Self-Imposed Immaturity in Dystopian Literature?



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(Ms. Allene Conroy)

USE OF OWN REASON OR SELF-IMPOSED IMMATURITY IN DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE?



GRIN Verlag Sep 2013, 2013. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 211x149x7 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2012 in the subject English - Literature, Works, grade: 1,7, University of Duisburg-Essen (Anglophone Studien), course: Dystopian Literature, language: English, abstract: At least since Aldous Huxley's dystopian classic *Brave New World*, first published in 1932, dystopian literature has been quite popular up to the present. As for example, Suzanne Collins' trilogy *Hunger Games* is one of the most influential as well as famous current dystopian novels. According to the Oxford Dictionary, dystopia as a literary term is defined as [an] imagined place or state in which everything is unpleasant or bad, typically a totalitarian or environmentally degraded one. [] (Oxford Dictionaries 2012). The term paper at hand focusses on the individual living in totalitarian societies. Therefore, a closer look will be taken at the two female protagonists of Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* and Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*, Offred and Kathy. Their characters will be analyzed with special regard to their moral action as well as their use of reason living within a totalitarian system. The examination of the two characters is based on fundamental aspects of Kantian philosophy concerning the understanding of enlightenment, freedom and the use of reason. Since totalitarian regimes, as presented in dystopian literature, usually are authoritarian and oppressive, it is interesting to consider if such a society leaves room for making use of one's own reason (cf. Oxford Dictionaries 2012). Therefore the initial question of this term paper is: Do the two protagonists of *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Never Let Me Go* make use of their own reason in terms of Kant's definition of pure practical reason, freedom...



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