

A COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW OF THE "KANUNI I LEKSË SË VOGËL" (THE CANON OF LEKA THE MINOR) BY RIDVAN DIBRA AND "KANUNI I LEKË DUKAGJINIT" (THE CANON OF LEKË DUKAGJINI)

Sabina Osmanovic

University "Luigj Gurakuqi" E-mail: montsabina@gmail.com; s-osmanoviq@unishk.edu.al

Abstract

The irony trope is oftentimes used in literary works as a masking tool to ridicule, mock or criticize events, actions or personalities in a very sophisticated form. However, the identification of irony in literature is not always easy; because one should have some prior knowledge of the circumstances and historical context it refers to. In this case, the novel "Kanuni i Lekës së Vogël" (The Canon of Leka the Minor) brings us "a flawed rewriting of the Mountains Laws" (as the author calls it in the preface) taking into account the original text as a foundation. The undertaking of such work may, in advancement, lead to wrong conclusions, such as the ridicule and mockery of a literary piece of fundamental significance as the "Kanuni i Lekë Dukagjinit" ("The Canon of Lekë Dukagjini"). Nevertheless, this text does not aim at calling into question the significance of such a document, but rather ends to relativize these 'iron' laws by "rewriting", i.e. by removing, adding and often wisely bypassing the delicate articles, tinted with strong overtones of socratic irony where the border line between sarcasm and cynicism is hardly visible. Considering the irony as the virtue of a sharp mind, which is, in this case, best implemented in the purpose of conveying the message somewhere between the lines, the "Kanun" ("Canon") should not be necessarily interpreted as indisputable law which stipulates and guides the ratio, but simply as a historical document. Thus, the author creates an ironic distance from the original text, i.e. "recreates" a literary text with the function of critical irony in the service of education.

Keywords: *literary irony, critical irony, education, Ridvan Dibra, the canon of Lekë Dukagjini*