

DECONSTRUCTION OF ANTON CHEKHOV'S IN THE GRAVEYARD

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ABSTRACT

Anton Chekhov is a master short storyteller. He occupies a prominent place in the Russian literary world. He has an acute sense of the contradictions that life holds. He uses this inherent dichotomy extensively in his works for an antithetical effect. Deconstruction is a poststructuralist approach of criticism, the leading figure of which was Jacques Derrida. It gained eminence in the 1960s. In the Graveyard's world is divided into the following binaries: Death and Life, Forgetfulness and Remembrance, Hate and Love, Reason and Faith. Anton Chekhov depicts the reality of the text in terms of these binaries, and, intends the second term of each pair to be subordinate to the first. The first term in each pair is privileged in Chekhov's understanding of the phenomenon under examination. The reversal of the hierarchies of the short story In the Graveyard thus eventuates in the collapse of the text's principal proposition.

KEYWORDS: *Deconstruction, Hierarchies Operating, Binaries, Irony, Paradox, Dichotomy, Contradictions, Privileged Term, Reversal of the Hierarchies, Poststructuralist Approach, Polarities*