



Title:

Alexander Kluge's narrative encyclopaedism: Collecting, Bricolage, Recycling

Abstract:

Alexander Kluge (born in 1932), writer, film-maker and more recently producer for television, is one of the big names in German literature and art of the sixties until today. He is an experimenter in the art of writing as well as in the domain of the media. He is known for his subtle combinations of fiction and factual text and appreciated for his very particular and sometimes disconcerting views on collective history and people trapped inside their subjectivity.

This study deals with the question of narrative encyclopaedism in the literary work of an author who openly declares his allegiance to the intellectual tradition of Diderot and D'Alembert, the editors of the *Encyclopaedia*. It is based primarily on the central part of Kluge's oeuvre, the *Chronicle of Feelings*, an extensive collection of short stories collected over several decades and published in its original version in 2000.

It is particularly interested in the narrative dialectic of human knowledge and the ways in which it is collected, recycled and tinkered with in order to experimentally realise it. Accordingly, our study offers a necessary reflection on the essayistic relation as a paradoxical strategy of totalisation, especially in comparison with Montaigne's *Essais*, another model Kluge refers to, although this book follows an anti-encyclopaedic conception.

To examine Kluge's encyclopaedism is ultimately to reflect on the library and the place it occupies in his work, especially through the dialogue he engages in with authors as various as Walter Benjamin, Jules Michelet, Heiner Müller, Madame de La Fayette and even Goethe.

Key words:

Learning
Author
Library
Bricolage
Quote
Knowledge
Chronicle
Writing
Encyclopaedism
Essayism
Experience
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Intertextuality
Inventory
Book
Memory
Narration
Recycling
Sentiment
Subjectivity