



Zusammenfassung der Dissertation  
für die Veröffentlichung auf der DFH- Plattform „Thèse en ligne“

The “song of the world” of Jean Giono: the becoming of an eco- and geopoetic manifesto

“You who are French, tell me why, in all of your literary treasures you do not have remedy books? Why do you never think of the desperate? All of your books say no to life.” deplores Miss Amandine in a text from *Living Water* published between 1934 and 1935. It would seem that Jean Giono proposes to fill this gap since his work, by reintegrating the body into “the flesh of the world,” Maurice Merleau-Ponty’s term for the entanglement that links the carnal being to the universe, could well belong to these “remedy books” to the evils of the earth. From the beginning of his career as a writer, the author indeed proposed, in a true ecopoetic manifesto entitled “The song of the world” (1932), to reconsider the importance accorded to the natural elements in his writings. He affirms his desire to restore to this “society of living beings” its rightful place in the literary work and to no longer isolate the character-man but to show him “traversed, soaked, heavy and luminous with the fragrances, the influences, of the song of the world.” Always, he questions the link between human beings and their environment to provide the foundations of a true ecosophy, to understand “a wisdom of inhabitation,” which we find consecrated in his environmental dances. Dance, be permeable, for *That [your] joy remains!*

In this Franco-German co-supervised thesis, we propose, in the light of geo- and ecocentric theoretical approaches, to question the future of the “world song” in Giono’s production. We will emphasize the movement: the one proposed by the decentering of an anthropocentric thought thanks to geo- and ecocentric theories; the movement perceptible in the evolution of the reception of the environmental theme of the work in the course of history; but also the movement that links language and body in Giono’s work in the ‘geo-geography’ proposed by the

texts. If the books of the writer can propose any "remedy" today, perhaps it is by re-enchanting our connection to the world in order to offer other ways of living the *oikos*: to inhabit it as a dancer.

Keywords: Jean Giono, song of the world, 'book remedy', ecopoetics, geopoetics, reception, 'geo-graphy', environmental dance, ecosophy.