

Poetess Rose Ausländer was born under the name of Rosalie Beatrice Scherzer in the Austrian Czernowitz in 1901. Rose's father, Sigmund Scherzer, came from a strictly orthodox town Sadagora, which was shaped by Chasidism and the oriental Judaism mysticism, him being, however a free thinker. Rose Scherzer grew up in an open, liberal-Jewish family, loyal to the Emperor and where the most important Jewish traditions were preserved.

Together with Paul Celan she belongs to the Bukovynian poets, who became world-famous and represent the phenomenon of the Jewish-German literature created in Czernowitz in the first half of the 20th century.

The life of Rose Ausländer was, as she herself puts it in one of her poems, "on the heavenly swing Europe – America – Europe". She changed her cities (Czernowitz. Vienna. New York, Dusseldorf), countries and continents traveling and living in emigration. She witnessed geopolitical changes in the world and in her hometown, which belonged to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, than Romania, later to Soviet Union. She survived ghetto, was convicted and arrested for spying, tried out different jobs (e.g. bookkeeper, nurse, librarian). She was constantly surrounded by several languages both in the multicultural region of Bukovyna ("even fish kept silent here in five languages" – R.A.) and during her emigration to New York after the War. She debuted with a poetry collection in German "Der Regenbogen" ("The Rainbow"), which was published in Chernivtsi in 1939.

As all German-Jewish poets of that time, Rose Ausländer also refused to use her mother tongue, due to the traumatic historical events of the World War II and unexpectedly for herself started writing in English. This lasted for ten years before she returned to German again. This English period might have been the most transformational one, which led to her later poetic style, for which she is most recognized.

Rose Ausländer managed to have written more than twenty books of poems (one in English, the rest – in German). Her most known one was a large "Poetry Collection" published by Helmut Braun in 1976. After its appearance, Rose Ausländer became the center of media attention and received numerous literary prizes, her poems became popular in Germany.

One of the most important characteristics of the poetry by Rose Ausländer is the evolution of motives, related to the category of femininity, especially when it comes to the triad "Mother", "Motherland" and "Mother tongue". Another key feminine figure is the unusual image of the biblical Eve. These motives evolve, change, transform and resonate with each other throughout all the periods of the poetess' life, reflecting the historical and biographical events. Following these motives with the special attention to the English period is the main objective of this research. Another essential element of the investigation will be answering question on the way the model of femininity in Judaism affected the poetess and how strong and complicated relationship with her mother influenced the chosen motives in the poetry of Rose Ausländer.

During the work on the PhD project, one needs to investigate the reason for the change of the language and find out how English and German interact with each other in the Ausländer's writing. Another important issue would be if the poetess' idiolect was influenced by Yiddish and other languages she knew. The key thesis of the research will be defining correlation between the poetess' multilingualism and the transformation of the category of femininity.

An additional theme of the PhD project will be following of the intertextual influences, which formed the English poetry of Rose Ausländer, shaped her style and some of the motives of her poetry.