MEMORY AND MELANCHOLIA IN THE WORKS OF MODIANO, SEBALD AND PAMUK: A PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY

This dissertation analyses how three contemporary novelists respond to the crisis of memory through their presentation of narratives that are permeated by a critical reflection on melancholia. It is concerned with memory, both personal and historical. It also simultaneously examines the affective substance and theoretical disposition of melancholia. In each of the writers melancholia is the abject position from which narrative protocols are woven. The position of the melancholic is supposed to have a special relationship with the past in such a way that the past is constantly resuscitated and symbolized without providing it with a fixed denotation or determination. Together, the chapters attempt to envisage the work of melancholia in constructing memory narratives. I have attempted to locate a far more specific role for melancholia than imagining it merely as something which is infused with a lingering sadness. The psychoanalytic deployment of melancholia provides a unique historical direction to memory narratives in these three contemporary writers.