Summary

Modernity in questions. The liquid modernity in the texts by Jean Rouaud and François Bon

The text focuses on two contemporary French prose writers: Jean Rouaud and François Bon. Their works deal with socio-economic changes undergone by France during the twentieth century, in a remarkable way. Jean Rouaud concentrates on the first half of the 20th century and post-war traumas, as well as transformation of France as a rural country of traditions into a modern industrial society, whereas François Bon focuses mainly on the transition from an industrial society into a post-industrial one. The text is methodologically anchored in the postulates of a French philosopher of postmodernism Jean-François Lyotard and in observations of a British sociologist Zygmunt Bauman whose works gave birth to the concept of the so-called liquid modernity. The key topic of the present text is therefore the way in which contemporary literature reflects paradigmatic changes characteristic of the second half of the 20th century commonly labelled as postmodernism.