

Title: Raping through the Ears: Violence and Social Corruption in Gombrowicz
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Abstract:

The present study will take a close look at Gombrowicz's depiction of violence in *Ferdydurke* in relation to the recent broader critical discourse on the intersection of violence and modernism. I argue that the "intimate" violence of Western modernist literature, often expressed in the language of trauma, takes a sociological form in *Ferdydurke*. Gombrowicz conceptualizes the age-old war between the individual versus society neither in terms of victory or ultimate separation, but with the self-implosion of the one as well as the other. I suggest that a key factor for Gombrowicz's divergence from his western European counterparts is the rise of totalitarian thinking in Poland in the early 20th century.