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The Representation of Veblen's Concepts from the "Theory of the Leisure Class" in Dreiser's "Sister Carrie"

By Oliver Steinert-Lieschied

GRIN Verlag Mrz 2010, 2010. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x2 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2006 in the subject American Studies - Literature, printed single-sided, grade: 1,2, University of Göttingen, language: English, abstract: With his 'Theory of the Leisure Class' (1899), which is nowadays considered one of his most popular works, Veblen made himself a social outsider because his criticism of society was harsh and provoking. Although he accepted utilitarianism and praised the industrial efficiency of the engineering professions, he rejected what Mills calls the American value of the 'heraldry of the greenback' and the 'pecuniary fanaticism of the business chieftain'. Still his work was widely read and many of the problems which he saw in contemporary American society are even nowadays still quite relevant. Dreiser's first successful novel 'Sister Carrie' was written in 1900, only one year after Veblen's main work had been published. This fact, as well as the widespread interest in Veblen's theories throughout America may have influenced Dreiser at least indirectly. More important though, is whether there is some textual evidence to prove their agreements and disagreements concerning their critique of society. In...



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