

*Between the Power, Tradition, and Individuality –  
Characters in Borislav Mihajlović Mihiz's Play Banović Strahinja*

*Summary*

The text begins with an insight on Mihiz's endeavours to modernize Banović's character in his play *Banović Strahinja*, so as to express his integral character in a new manner and in new situations. We reach the conclusion that the three female characters (the Jugovićs' mother, Banović Strahinja's mother and his wife) represent three borderline points encompassing philosophical space within which the male characters of the play move. These three points are Power, Tradition, and (a radical) Individuality. The text specifically focuses on the character of the Woman, demonstrating that she represents a radical individuality in which, under the impact of a consciousness of the absurd, a desire for self-destruction develops. The pivotal place in our text is devoted to the character of Banović Strahinja, the only character taking the central stage and the philosophical space shaped by Power, Tradition and Individuality. The symbol of this central position is his Little Story, which is counterpoised to the Great Story of Power, the character of the Woman without a story, and Tradition, but in the sense that it contains the elements of all three stances, so it can never be drawn to a single one and be overpowered by it. Therefore, the character of Banović Strahinja is in this play equally representative of individuality, history and the collective, by which, in the modernized view, the integral character of the original poem's hero, Starac Milija gets re-played.

*Keywords:* integral character, modernity, individualism, tradition, power, story.