

The illusion of lunch

In “ Novel of London”, in the chapter titled “Lunch in London”, Nikolai Repnin compares his past and current lunch in a nostalgic way. Lunch used to be a time for him and his family, it would last long and unhurriedly, while today everything is different for him. Now, the point is to get it over with as soon as possible, eat anything and call it lunch. He describes how workers in London eat lunch in a completely different way than those in Paris or Milan. When workers in those states had lunch, no matter how modest it was, still looked like one. They would have their spots for eating, with obligatory wine or some other drink. Workers in London just rush to eat anything like fish and chips, and then go to the pub for a beer. Women in London would eat just a piece of aubergine or something like that, just so they can eat some ice cream at the end. The complete difference from what Repnin is used to when it comes to lunch is why he calls this current poor lunch, **an illusion**.

„U podne ,to jest u dvanaest i po, svi se iz radnje razilaze, da ručaju, ali je taj ručak,- i taj ručak,- sasvim drukčiji, nego što je njihov bio. To je iluzija o ručku.”(knjiga I, str.199)

Lunch in novel portrays loneliness. Lunch is not in the circle of friends and family and it isn't a time for socializing, everyone eats alone.

„Junak našeg romana, tako, prestaje da razgovara,u podne, sa ljudima, - i uopšte ne opšti više sa ljudima,-nego počinje da ruča sa zgradama Londona, sa ulicama Londona, sa klupama Londona, I parkovima. (Svud u velikim varošima, tako, sirotinja, u Evropi, razgovara, mrlja, ruča, po parkovima, po portama crkava, po grobljima, pred spomenicima kralieva i vojskovoda, blizu fontana.)”(knjiga I, str.206)