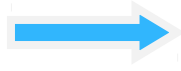


Univerza v Ljubljani
Naravoslovnotehniška fakulteta
Odelek za tekstilstvo
Snežniška 5



Franz



Kafka

M. V.
NTF-OT, NTO
Ljubljana, 2011

Kazalo

Kazalo.....	2
Kazalo slik.....	3
Kazalo shem.....	3
Kazalo tabel	3
Kazalo grafikonov.....	3
1. Introduction.....	3
2. Family.....	4
3. Kafka at the age of five.....	5
4. Education.....	5
5. Work.....	6
6. Later years.....	7
7. Literary work.....	8
8. Style of writing.....	8
9. Bibliography.....	9
9.1. Short stories.....	9
9.2. Novellas.....	10
9.3. Novels.....	10
9.4. Letters.....	10
10. Treatments of Kafka and his works.....	10
10.1. Literature.....	10
11. Film.....	11
11.1. Kafka's Life.....	11
11.2. Novels.....	11
11.3. Metamorphosis.....	11
11.4. Short stories.....	12
11.5. Theatre.....	12
12. References.....	13
13. Viri.....	14
Kovač, M. (maj 2001). Filmi in Novele Franza Kafke. Pisatelji nove dobe, 5, 30-35.....	14

Kazalo slik

Kazalo shem

Kazalo tabel

Kazalo grafikonov

1. Introduction

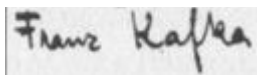
Franz Kafka (IPA: [f an kafa]) (3 July 1883 – 3 June 1924) was one of the major fiction writers of the 20th century. He was born to a middle-class Jewish family in Prague, Austria-Hungary, presently the Czech Republic. His unique body of writing—much of which is

incomplete and which was mainly published posthumously—is among the most influential in Western literature. Slika : Photograph of Franz Kafka taken in 1906

His stories, such as *The Metamorphosis* (1915), and novels, including *The Trial* (1925) and *The Castle* (1926), concern troubled individuals in a nightmarishly impersonal and bureaucratic world.



Slika : Photograph of Franz Kafka taken in 1906



Slika : Kafka's signature

Franz Kafka

2. Family

Kafka was born into a middle-class Jewish family in Prague, the capital of Bohemia. His father, Hermann Kafka (1852–1931), was described as a "huge, selfish, overbearing businessman" and by Kafka himself as "a true Kafka in strength, health, appetite, loudness of voice, eloquence, self-satisfaction, worldly dominance, endurance, presence of mind, [and] knowledge of human nature". Hermann was the fourth child of Jacob Kafka, a ritual slaughterer, and came to Prague from Osek, a Czech-speaking Jewish village near Písek in southern Bohemia. After working as a traveling sales representative, he established himself as an independent retailer of men's and women's fancy goods and accessories, employing up to 15 people and using a jackdaw (kavka in Czech) as his business logo. Kafka's mother, Julie (1856—1934), was the daughter of Jakob Löwy, a prosperous brewer in Poděbrady, and was better educated than her husband.



Slika : Kafka yang

3. Kafka at the age of five

Kafka was the eldest of six children. He had two younger brothers, Georg and Heinrich, who died at the ages of fifteen months and six months, respectively, before Kafka was seven, and three younger sisters, Gabriele ("Elli") (1889–1941), Valerie ("Valli") (1890–1942), and Ottilie ("Ottla") (1891–1943). On business days, both parents were absent from the home. His mother helped to manage her husband's business and worked in it as much as 12 hours a day. The children were largely reared by a series of governesses and servants. Kafka's relationship with his father was severely troubled as explained in the Letter to His Father which Kafka complained of being profoundly emotionally abused since childhood.

Kafka's sisters were sent with their families to the Łódź Ghetto and died there or in concentration camps. Ottla was sent to the concentration camp at Theresienstadt and then on 7 October 1943 to the death camp at Auschwitz, where 1267 children and 51 guardians, including Ottla, were gassed to death on their arrival.

4. Education

Kafka learned German as his first language, but he was also fluent in Czech. Later, Kafka acquired some knowledge of French language and culture; one of his favorite authors was Flaubert. From 1889 to 1893, he attended the Deutsche Knabenschule, the boys' elementary school at the Masný trh/Fleischmarkt (meat market), the street now known as Masná street. His Jewish education was limited to his Bar Mitzvah celebration at 13 and going to the synagogue four times a year with his father, which he loathed. After elementary school, he was admitted to the rigorous classics-oriented state gymnasium, Altstädter Deutsches Gymnasium, an academic secondary school with eight grade levels, where German was also the language of instruction, at Old Town Square, within the Kinsky Palace. He completed his Maturita exams in 1901.



Slika : Kafka palace

Kinsky Palace where Kafka attended gymnasium and where his father later owned a shop. Admitted to the Austrian-Hungarian Charles-Ferdinand University of Prague, Kafka first studied chemistry, but switched after two weeks to law. This offered a range of career possibilities, which pleased his father, and required a longer course of study that gave Kafka time to take classes in German studies and art history. At the university, he joined a student club, named Lese- und Redehalle der Deutschen Studenten, which organized literary events, readings and other activities. In the end of his first year of studies, he met Max Brod, who would become a close friend of his throughout his life, together with the journalist Felix Weltsch, who also studied law. Kafka obtained the degree of Doctor of Law on 18 June 1906 and performed an obligatory year of unpaid service as law clerk for the civil and criminal courts.

5. Work

On 1 November 1907, he was hired at the Assicurazioni Generali, a large Italian insurance company, where he worked for nearly a year. His correspondence, during that period, witnesses that he was unhappy with his working time schedule—from 8 p.m. (20:00) until 6 a.m. (06:00)—as it made it extremely difficult for him to concentrate on his writing. On 15 July 1908, he resigned, and two weeks later found more congenial employment with the Worker's Accident Insurance Institute for the Kingdom of Bohemia. His father often referred to his son's job as insurance officer as a "Brotberuf", literally "bread job", a job done only to pay the bills. However, he did not show any signs of indifference towards his job, as the several promotions that he received during his career suggest that he was a hardworking employee. He was also given the task of compiling and composing the annual report and was reportedly quite proud of the results, sending copies to friends and family. In parallel, Kafka was also committed to his literary work. Together with his close friends Max Brod and Felix Weltsch, these three were called "Der enge Prager Kreis", the close Prague circle, which was part of a broader Prague Circle, "a loosely knit group of German-Jewish writers who contributed to the culturally fertile soil of Prague from the 1880s till after World War I." In 1911, Karl Hermann, spouse of his sister Elli, proposed Kafka collaborate in the operation of an asbestos factory known as Prager Asbestwerke Hermann and Co. Kafka showed a positive attitude at first, dedicating much of his free time to the business. During that period, he also found interest and entertainment in the performances of Yiddish theatre, despite the misgivings of even close friends such as Max Brod, who usually supported him in everything else. Those performances also served as a starting point for his growing relationship with Judaism.

6. *Later years*

In 1912, at Max Brod's home, Kafka met Felice Bauer, who lived in Berlin and worked as a representative for a dictaphone company. Over the next five years they corresponded a great deal, met occasionally, and twice were engaged to be married. Their relationship finally ended in 1917.

In 1917, Kafka began to suffer from tuberculosis, which would require frequent convalescence during which he was supported by his family, most notably his sister Ottla. Despite his fear of being perceived as both physically and mentally repulsive, he impressed others with his boyish, neat, and austere good looks, a quiet and cool demeanor, obvious intelligence and dry sense of humor.

In 1921 he developed an intense relationship with Czech journalist and writer Milena Jesenská. In July 1923, throughout a vacation to Graal-Müritz on the Baltic Sea, he met Dora Diamant and briefly moved to Berlin in the hope of distancing himself from his family's influence to concentrate on his writing. In Berlin, he lived with Dora Diamant, a 25-year-old kindergarten teacher from an orthodox Jewish family, who was independent enough to have escaped her past in the ghetto. Dora became his lover, and influenced Kafka's interest in the Talmud.

It is generally agreed that Kafka suffered from clinical depression and social anxiety throughout his entire life[citation needed]. He also suffered from migraines, insomnia, constipation, boils, and other ailments, all usually brought on by excessive stresses and strains. He attempted to counteract all of this by a regimen of naturopathic treatments, such as a vegetarian diet and the consumption of large quantities of unpasteurized milk. However, Kafka's tuberculosis worsened; he returned to Prague, then went to Dr. Hoffmann's sanatorium in Kierling near Vienna for treatment, where he died on 3 June 1924, apparently from starvation. The condition of Kafka's throat made eating too painful for him, and since parenteral nutrition had not yet been developed, there was no way to feed him (a fate resembling that of Gregor in the *Metamorphosis* and the main character of *A Hunger Artist*). His body was ultimately brought back to Prague where he was interred on 11 June 1924, in the New Jewish Cemetery (sector 21, row 14, plot 33) in Prague-Žižkov.



Slika : Franz Kafka's grave in Prague-Žižkov.

7. *Literary work*

Kafka's writing attracted little attention until after his death. During his lifetime, he published only a few short stories and never finished any of his novels (with the possible exception of *The Metamorphosis*, which some consider to be a short novel). Prior to his death, Kafka wrote to his friend and literary executor Max Brod: "Dearest Max, my last request: Everything I leave behind me ... in the way of diaries, manuscripts, letters (my own and others'), sketches, and so on, [is] to be burned unread." Brod overrode Kafka's wishes, believing that Kafka had given these directions to him specifically because Kafka knew he would not honor them—Brod had told him as much. (His lover, Dora Diamant, partially executed his wishes, secretly keeping up to 20 notebooks and 35 letters until they were confiscated by the Gestapo in 1933. An ongoing international search is being conducted for these missing Kafka papers.) Brod, in fact, would oversee the publication of most of Kafka's work in his possession, which soon began to attract attention and high critical regard.

All of Kafka's published works, except several letters he wrote in Czech to Milena Jesenská, were written in German.



Slika : Bronze statue of Franz Kafka in Prague.

8. *Style of writing*

Kafka often made extensive use of a trait special to the German language allowing for long sentences that sometimes can span an entire page. Kafka's sentences then deliver an unexpected impact just before the full stop—that being the finalizing meaning and focus. This is achieved due to the construction of certain sentences in German which require that the verb be positioned at the end of the sentence. Such constructions cannot be duplicated in English, so it is up to the translator to provide the reader with the same effect found in the original text. Another virtually insurmountable problem facing the translator is how to deal with the author's intentional use of ambiguous terms or of words that have several meanings. One such instance is found in the first sentence of *The Metamorphosis*. Another example is Kafka's use of the German noun *Verkehr* in the final sentence of *The Judgment*. Literally, *Verkehr* means

intercourse and, as in English, can have either a sexual or non-sexual meaning; in addition, it is used to mean transport or traffic. The sentence can be translated as: "At that moment an unending stream of traffic crossed over the bridge." What gives added weight to the obvious double meaning of 'Verkehr' is Kafka's confession to Max Brod that when he wrote that final line, he was thinking of "a violent ejaculation". In the English translation, of course, what can 'Verkehr' be but "traffic"?



Slika : The entrance to the Franz Kafka museum in Prague.

9. Bibliography

9.1. Short stories

Description of a Struggle (Beschreibung eines Kampfes, 1904-1905)

Wedding Preparations in the Country (Hochzeitsvorbereitungen auf dem Lande, 1907-1908)

Contemplation (Betrachtung, 1904-1912)

The Judgment (Das Urteil - 22-23 September 1912)

The Stoker

In the Penal Colony (In der Strafkolonie, October 1914)

The Village Schoolmaster (The Giant Mole) (Der Dorfschullehrer or Der Riesenmaulwurf, 1914-1915)

Blumfeld, an Elderly Bachelor (Blumfeld, ein älterer Junggeselle, 1915)

The Warden of the Tomb (Der Gruftwächter, 1916-1917), the only play Kafka wrote

The Hunter Gracchus (Der Jäger Gracchus, 1917)

The Great Wall of China (Beim Bau der Chinesischen Mauer, 1917)

A Report to an Academy (Ein Bericht für eine Akademie, 1917)

Jackals and Arabs (Schakale und Araber, 1917)

A Country Doctor (Ein Landarzt, 1919)

A Message from the Emperor (Eine kaiserliche Botschaft, 1919)

An Old Leaf (Ein altes Blatt, 1919)

The Refusal (Die Abweisung, 1920)

A Hunger Artist (Ein Hungerkünstler, 1924)

Investigations of a Dog (Forschungen eines Hundes, 1922)

A Little Woman (Eine kleine Frau, 1923)

First Sorrow (Erstes Leid, 1921-1922)

The Burrow (Der Bau, 1923-1924)

Josephine the Singer, or The Mouse Folk (Josephine, die Sängerin, oder Das Volk der Mäuse, 1924)

Many collections of the stories have been published, and they include:

The Penal Colony: Stories and Short Pieces. New York: Schocken Books, 1948.
The Complete Stories, (ed. Nahum N. Glatzer). New York: Schocken Books, 1971.
The Basic Kafka. New York: Pocket Books, 1979.
The Sons. New York: Schocken Books, 1989.
The Metamorphosis, In the Penal Colony, and Other Stories. New York: Schocken Books, 1995.
Contemplation. Twisted Spoon Press, 1998.
Metamorphosis and Other Stories. Penguin Classics, 2007

9.2. Novellas

The Metamorphosis (Die Verwandlung - November-December 1915)

9.3. Novels

The Trial (Der Prozeß - 1925) (includes short story Before the Law)
The Castle (Das Schloß - 1926)
Amerika (Amerika or Der Verschollene - 1927)
Diaries and notebooks
Diaries 1910-1923
The Blue Octavo Notebooks

9.4. Letters

Letter to His Father
Letters to Felice
Letters to Ottla
Letters to Milena
Letters to Family, Friends, and Editors

10. Treatments of Kafka and his works

10.1. Literature

Nobel Prize winner Isaac Bashevis Singer wrote a short story called "A Friend of Kafka," which was about a Yiddish actor called Jacques Kohn who said he knew Franz Kafka. In this story, according to Jacques Kohn, Kafka believed in the Golem, a legendary creature from Jewish folklore.

Kafka Americana by Jonathan Lethem and Carter Scholz is a collection of stories based on Kafka's life and works.

Kafka on the Shore by Haruki Murakami

Kafka was the Rage, a Greenwich Village Memoir by Anatole Broyard

Kafka's Curse by Achmat Dangor

The Kafka Effekt by American bizarro author D. Harlan Wilson, who relates his take on the irrealism genre of literature to that of Franz Kafka, and to that of William S. Burroughs.

Criminal (comics) by Ed Brubaker and Sean Phillips contains, within a re-occurring comic strip seen in characters newspapers, the adventures of 'Franz Kafka PI'. The 4th story arc of the book also involves the creator of the strip. There is talk of a spin off series written by Matt Fraction.

11. Film

11.1. Kafka's Life

Kafka (1990) Jeremy Irons stars as the eponymous author. Written by Lem Dobbs and directed by Steven Soderbergh, the movie mixes his life and fiction providing a semi-biographical presentation of Kafka's life and works. The story concerns Kafka investigating the disappearance of one of his work colleagues. The plot takes Kafka through many of the writer's own works, most notably *The Castle* and *The Trial*.

Franz Kafka (1992) at the Internet Movie Database : an animated film by Piotr Dumala

11.2. Novels

The Trial (1962) Orson Welles wrote and directed this adaptation of the novel starring Anthony Perkins. In a 1962 BBC Interview with Huw Wheldon, Orson Welles noted, "Say what you like, but *The Trial* is the best film I have ever made".

Klassenverhältnisse *Class Relations* (1984) Directed by the experimental filmmaking duo of Jean-Marie Straub and Danièle Huillet based on Kafka's novel *Amerika*.

The Trial (1993) Starring Kyle MacLachlan as Joseph K. with Anthony Hopkins in a cameo role as the priest as a strictly faithful adaptation with a screenplay by playwright Harold Pinter.

Das Schloß (1997) at the Internet Movie Database by Michael Haneke

11.3. Metamorphosis

Die Verwandlung (1975) at the Internet Movie Database

Förvandlingen (1976/I) at the Internet Movie Database

The Metamorphosis of Mr. Samsa (1977) at the Internet Movie Database : an animated short by Caroline Leaf

Metamorphosis (1987) at the Internet Movie Database

Franz Kafka's '*It's a Wonderful Life*' (1993) is an Oscar-winning short film written and directed by Peter Capaldi and starring Richard E. Grant as Kafka. The film blends "*Metamorphosis*" with Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*.

The Metamorphosis of Franz Kafka (1993) by Carlos Atanes, at YouTube.

Prevrashcheniye (2002) at the Internet Movie Database

Metamorfosis (2004) at the Internet Movie Database

11.4. Short stories

Zoetrope : an experimental avant-garde short film by Charlie Deaux, Zoetrope (1999) at the Internet Movie Database. Adaptation of "In the Penal Colony".

The Hunger Artist (2002) at the Internet Movie Database : an animated feature by Tom Gibbons

Menschenkörper (2004) at the Internet Movie Database Adaptation of "A Country Doctor". Short film by Tobias Frühmorgen

A Country Doctor (2007) at the Internet Movie Database Adaptation of "A Country Doctor". Short film by Koji Yamamura

11.5. Theatre

Alan Bennett, Kafka's Dick, 1986, a play in which the ghosts of Kafka, his father Hermann, and Max Brod arrive at the home of an English insurance clerk (and Kafka aficionado) and his wife.

Milan Richter, Kafka's Hell-Paradise, 2006, a play with 5 characters, using Kafka's aphorisms, dreams and re-telling his relations to his father and to the women. Translated from the Slovak by Ewald Osers.

Milan Richter, Kafka's Second Life, 2007, a play with 17 characters, starting in Kierling where Kafka is dying and ending in Prague in 1961. Translated from the Slovak by Ewald Osers.

Tadeusz Różewicz, Pułapka (The Trap), 1982, a play loosely based on Kafka's diaries and letters

[Shema : Kafka`s films](#)

[Tabela : Publikacija knjig](#)

leto	artikel	publikacija Knjige in reference
2010	3	24

	publikacija	
2009	25	6
2008	23	26
2007	21	54
2006	65	5
2005	32	4
2004	8	45
2003	13	9
2002	2	10
2001	0	14
2000	31	12
total	223	209

Grafikon : Artikli po letih

Grafikon : Publikacija kaligrafije po letih

12. References

- Adorno, Theodor. Prisms. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1967.
- Corngold, Stanley. Introduction to The Metamorphosis. Bantam Classics, 1972. ISBN 0-553-21369-5.
- Hamalian, Leo, ed. Franz Kafka: A Collection of Criticism. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1974. ISBN 0-07-025702-7.
- Heller, Paul. Franz Kafka: Wissenschaft und Wissenschaftskritik. Tuebingen: Stauffenburg, 1989. ISBN 3-923-72140-4.
- Kafka, Franz. The Metamorphosis and Other Stories. Trans. Donna Freed. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1996. ISBN 1-56619-969-7.
- Kafka, Franz. Kafka's Selected Stories. Norton Critical Edition. Trans. Stanley Corngold. New York: Norton, 2005. ISBN 9780393924794.

13. Viri

Kovač, M. (maj 2001). Filmi in Novele Franza Kafke. *Pisatelji nove dobe*, 5, 30-35.

Marjan, Z. (15. februar 2009). *Kafka*. Prevezeto 2. marec 2009 iz wikipedija:
<http://www.wikipedija.com>

Mohorič, J. (2003). *Življenje Franza Kafke*. Ljubljana: Mladinska knjiga.