

## Abstract

Eva Lundgren-Gothlin: *Kön och existens. Studier i Simone de Beauvoirs Le Deuxième Sexe*. With an English summary: Sex and Existence. Studies in Simone de Beauvoir's *Le Deuxième Sexe*. Göteborg: Daidalos, Göteborg 1991. ISBN 91 86320 56 4. Dissertation in Swedish. 365 pp.

Department of the History of Ideas and Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

This dissertation is a study of Simone de Beauvoir's philosophical anthropology and her theory of women's oppression in *Le Deuxième Sexe*. It is shown that three philosophical traditions are central for her theory: Hegelianism, Marxism and phenomenological Existentialism, i. e. the French Hegelianism formulated by Kojève, the young Marx' theory of alienation and his concept of labor, Engel's theory of women's oppression and Sartre's phenomenological Existentialism. It is argued that Simone de Beauvoir transforms Sartre's philosophy in *L'Être et le Néant* by means of Hegelianism and Marxism, thereby developing a philosophy of history and an anthropology different from his. This enables her to theorize oppression and liberation. Simone de Beauvoir develops Sartre's philosophy in an original way and even though she avoids some of the problems inherent in Sartre's individualistic and ahistorical philosophy in *L'Être et le Néant*, other remain due to the androcentric components in the philosophies of, not only Sartre, but also Marx and Hegel. Her theory therefore is problematic from a modern feminist perspective, but at the same time her contribution was a radical one in the social context in which it took form.

The perspective in the dissertation is hermeneutic in that Simone de Beauvoir's theory is interpreted in relation to its historical context, i. e. a close reading of the text is combined with a sketch of the contemporary historical and intellectual situation. To this is added a critique of ideology which relates her theory to modern socialist-feminist theory.

Keywords: Simone de Beauvoir, Sartre, Hegel/Kojève, Marxism, feminism, existentialism.