

# THE VIEW OF REALISM IN THE ART OF OPERA: VERISMO

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**Abstract**— Encountered in caves with primitive men, the concept of art has had a continuous development and change from the ancient times to the present day. The art has always kept its place in lives of man as a part of social, economical and cultural developments performed by man for ages. Along with the concept of art developing and changing in time, many different types of wordings and many branches of arts have been formed. As the materials of arts were shaped and changed, the arts were also likely to be separated to different branches.

However, among many different styles formed with the development of music, “opera” is of a vital importance. The art of opera has passed through many different periods during its development period, also with the effect of interest by people. As well as the development performed by opera itself within this period, social, political, economical and cultural alterations have also been effective in addition to the movements of thoughts. Especially the effects of the movements of thoughts developing in the 19th century became important on individuals on a large scale, and these effects were also seen in opera, as in other arts. All developments and awareness in society seen in the 19th century led to serious intellectual movements. One of the most important movements developing in this period was also “the movement of realism”, that is, “realism” appearing in the field of literature. The movement of realism effective in literature in the 19th century became influential on opera as well and was called “verismo”.

While the appearance of verismo movement in opera is evaluated in this study, several important composers representatives of the movement will be mentioned, and social, cultural and political factors leading to the movement will be examined.

**Index Terms**— arts, opera, realism, verismo.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of art may be dated back to the beginning of human history. The concept of art discovered in the caves with the very first men has encountered a continuous development and change since ancient ages. The art, as a part of social, economic and cultural developments that human beings have experienced for many ages, has always maintained its position in human life. Related to art, Bazin [5] states that the art is one of the numerous expressions of the unique genius which drive human beings to repeat the creative performance of the Creator, everything they do, and it is probably the most specific one, and thus human beings head towards going beyond themselves.” Through this expression of Bazin [5], we understand how much art is effective in the development of human beings throughout centuries. Kaygısız [7] also emphasize the effect of art in this development as follows; “The art may be said, first, to determine the laws of process for the transformation of the world by human beings”. In that case, what is art and where has it arisen? According to Kaygısız [7], the source of art is the nature, the objective reality, events, and phenomenon, and the most significant elements of art are “aesthetics” and “technique”. Parallel to this, he defines the art saying “The art is aesthetically reflection of objective reality in

the mind of human beings and is one of the most beautiful products of human efforts transforming the nature”.

With the existence of the art concept which has developed and changed, numerous different expression methods have appeared, and numerous branches have emerged. When the shaped material changed, it became possible to separate art into different branches. It is possible to date back the birth of different art branches to the ancient ages. It may be concluded that animal pictures which primitive people living in caves drew on the walls of the caves started the painting art. It is mentioned by the researchers that the foundations of the art of theatre were established during those ages. Fuat [6], states that perhaps the art of theatre is the oldest art and explains the birth of theatre as follows: “Theatre, the art of play, is older than the religion. While sitting around the night fire, the theatre began when the first man thought about making a kind of spell in order to increase the game animals or provide a better hunting that he will go the next day and also imitated the animals to be hunted”. Fuat [6] who base the birth of theatre on imitation mentions that dance and music accompany these magic ceremonies and also bases the birth of music on those ancient ages.

As seen, the emerging of and development art branches is highly related to human life. Every step taken in the field of art shows up as the result a necessity in human life. When the history of mankind and the history of art are analyzed separately, it is seen that the effects of numerous political, social and economic developments occurring throughout history in human civilization are also reflected similarly into the art. The history which is analyzed under definite periods shows parallelism with art history. This opinion may be attributed to the effect of art on the society. Related to this effect, Kaygısız [7] states as follows: “The art has a strong effect on the society. You may create an effect which you fail despite the speeches that last for many days using an art work. This effect is in direct proportion to the extendable and acceptable characteristics of the art or the art work on the society”. However, every branch of the art may not have the same effect on the society. In this parallel, Selanik [3] emphasizes that music is more impressive when compared to the other arts and states as follows: “We can define the music which reaches to human with a bigger simplicity than the other branches of art and bigger influential power as ‘the art of researching and transferring the human reality on the way of thinking through sounds, perception of life through sounds, and development within all its relationships”.

Within the historical process, numerous forms of music art have emerged. The music art which has bigger effects on the society when compared to other arts started to affect bigger groups of the society with the emerging of those different forms. Among those different forms which appear with the development of music, surely, “opera” has great importance.

With the art of opera visual and audial elements were combined. Neimetzade [4] describes the opera as; “the art of musical theatre”. Numerous branches of art such as music, theatre, and dance all co-exist in opera. Richard Wagner also defines opera as “the constitution of arts”.

The birth of opera takes an important place in the developments experienced especially in opera field after the Renaissance. Since opera comprises many branches of art, it became an important part of the music art and has always been loved. Selanik [3] explains the development of opera and the concern of people for opera as follows: “The development of opera accompanied by exceeding demonstrations of public and it was rather gleaming. The opera which masquerades sometimes as an aristocrat, sometimes a realist, serious even tragic or cynical made people who live in a small world laugh or moved them to tears in relation with the needs of public”.

The art of opera experienced numerous different stages under the effect of intense interest of people during its development process. In addition to the development which opera experienced within itself from the point of art during this process, the social, political, economic and cultural changes which the world experienced were also effective with developing movements of thought. Especially, the effects of movements of thought which developed in the 19th century were in huge amounts and the effects of those movements were also seen in opera as well as other arts. One of the developments seen in the 19th century and which plays an important role in the emerging of movements that also affects the art is ‘the industrial revolution’. Şatır [8] reports the developments experienced during that period as follows: “19th century is the century which new inventions came one after one. The human beings who learn how to benefit from the energy existing in the nature started to use this energy to start the new machines they invented. The first steamboat, the first train, the first telegram, the first telephone etc. In conclusion, 19th century was the century of initials”.

Those developments seen in the field of industry in the 19th century was the beginning of changes in social and cultural fields. With the increase of awakening in the society, the number of highbrow people gradually increased. The people who started reading sought for a literature and art correspondent with their levels. Şatır [8] explains the effects of those changes which led by the industrial revolution on the society as follows; “The reflection of those developments which change life and worldview of the whole civilized world became inevitable again, as usual. People also changed in accompany with the developments. With the development of industry, large industrial centers which innumerable workers gathered together and the workers and their families who were deprived of reading and writing before then, who didn’t find it necessary and find an opportunity for it started learning reading and writing”.

All those developments experienced in the 19th century and awakening in the society ideationally formed serious movements. One of the most significant movements which emerged during that period is ‘the movement of realism’. The feelings and dreams which have been effective in literature field so far give way to the realities of society and human beings after the realism movement.

## II. THE EMERGENCE OF REALISM MOVEMENT

The experimental sciences which show significant development during the 19th century brought numerous

technological innovations which also change human life. With the developing technology, the innovations seen in the industrial field were revolutionary and they turned this period into almost a turning point. During this development period which the belief and knowledge of the society so far were looked with suspicion and people started to seek for reasonably answers. Questions were directed to religious beliefs and various concepts which were followed blindly and significant developments were provided in experimental sciences. The foundations of the conflicts between the science and religion which took numerous years were laid through those developments. The intellectual structure which has changed in parallel to those developments was effective in many fields such as philosophy and literature and new thinking movements were formed along with changing life conditions. One of those thinking movements is the “realism” movement which developed during that period.

“The realist movement was influenced from the social, economic, and cultural developments seen in the Europe of the 19th century; it was formed through those effects and established its own theory through coming up against romanticism which was the product of old environment. Between the years of 1830 and 1870 the political, religious, scientific and cultural revolutions in Europe were performed in parallel to each other. Significant changes are observed in economic life, social relationships, value judgments, domestic and international politics. This significant change is the result of the industrialization and capitalism which gaining strength.” [9]

The industrial revolution which began at the end of 18th century and which increasingly continued during the 19th century formed a chain of inventions. Although the experienced technological developments and industrial revolution brought numerous positive innovations, the crisis caused by developing industry led to serious problems. The encountered wars, rebellions and recessions made heavy weather of life conditions and caused the toughening of life struggle for people. The need for workforce which was required by the developing industry and experienced industrial revolution formed the working class and sharpened the class differences in the society.

“The industrial revolution resulted in the emerging and growth of a working class and seeking their rights against who employ them related to the themes such as working conditions and wages. The number of the people who consider establishing a fair socio-economic order among the people, who give thought to public life and especially to negative aspects of this life and those who regard the theme of society as a science and carry out observations and analysis related to this gradually increased. Sociology became a field which is gradually gaining importance” [8].

It shows that the industrial revolution which began in the 18th century and changed the appearance of the world and humanity is one of the biggest changes of the human history. In the emerging of this change which affects the world history so much, numerous elements were effective. Their effects to this changing process may be listed as “intellectual” and “socio-economic” elements.

- Intellectual reasons:

Numerous religious, political, scientific and philosophical thoughts which emerged during 16th and 17th centuries were effective in the formation of industrial revolution. During the 17th century, the philosophers of Enlightenment developed scientific method and the principles of rational thinking. The

French Revolution promulgated those thoughts to Europe through Napoleon. The scientific inventions of the 17th century created a resource for technological developments of industrial revolution [10].

- Socio-economic reasons:

The population of Europe has shown a rapid increase since 16th century. The developments in the agriculture reduced the need for population in this sector and led those population migrate to cities. Thus, a ready work-power was established for the urban industry. The products such as sugar, coffee and tea which were considered luxurious in the past turned into a natural necessity for middle and lower classes. This indirectly increased the demand for consumer products. The European countries established new colonies and, in their industries, started to use the goods they brought from there, they reprocessed those goods and sold to their colonies. In parallel with the prospering of the middle class, a capital accumulation started. Thus, new investment fields were sought. Developments were seen in transportation and technology.

In parallel with those developments, the use of machinery gained popularity during that period and huge factories appeared. As a result of this development, a direct transition from agriculture workers towards a society which produces goods in a factory was seen. The use of iron, coal and steam which develops at the first stage provided the use of railways and this development in transportation had great effect on the industrial revolution.

During the period after 1870 which may be regarded as the second stage of the industrial revolution, some changes were seen in the raw materials and energy sources. Chemical agents were used as well as steel, electricity and petrol and the industry started to gain its form today. Especially, the use of steel provided significant effects. In conclusion, the 19th century was a period which changed the life and appearance of the modern world and held an important place in the history of world. During this period, human life, human life has dramatically changed with the developing industry and those changes were also effective in social field.

The industrial revolution led the bourgeoisies in Europe change its structure and birth of a new working class. Factory owners were included to old bourgeoisies and the bourgeoisie class formed the wealthiest class in every country. In majority of the countries, however, the middle class is deprived of numerous political and social rights and they will have to wait for the end of the 19th century to get those rights.

Before the industrial revolution in Europe, there was a working class and this class has always been in majority but unconsciousness. As a result of industrial revolution, the working class started to become conscious and established the most crowded class of all the societies. Despite its majority in number, the working class was deprived of economic and political rights. Their wages were low and living and working conditions were bad. The working hours were long, the factories were unventilated and far from all types of health conditions. They had no right to vote from the point of politics. The unionization and the strikes were forbidden. However, the workers were aware of the situation and they were conscious.

Another effect of industrial revolution was seen in the increase of population. Thanks to industrialization, agriculture became mechanized and same quantity of land was able to feed much more people. Moreover, the urban industry provided employment to the people except the agriculture sector and was able to feed vast amount of people. The industrial revolution

caused the accumulation of population in cities. In 1920's, the half of the population of the USA lived in cities. Urbanization brought along significant problems. Shanty settlements grew up.

With the gathering of the workers in the factories and accumulation of factories in the urban areas, the cities started to swallow rural areas. When this development were unified with the growth of population resulting from the innovations in the science of medicine and efforts to find food to feed this population, the mass society which is the invariable characteristic of the 20th century claimed its place in the history [10].

Another result of the industrial development is the competition and stress which began between rapidly industrializing countries. The countries started to compete in order to take natural resources and markets. This competition has continued up to now in a gradually increasing speed and with bloody or bloodless wars.

### III. THE REALISM MOVEMENT

The experimental sciences which underwent extreme changes in the 19th century brought along numerous technologic innovations. The philosophy of "positivism" which was suggested by Auguste Comte defended the opinion during this period which may be summarized as the believing only what human beings see. It was defended that it would be valid also for social sciences and its adaptation to literature gave birth to 'realism'.

Realism gave great importance to observation as a condition of positivism. It was claimed that the feelings of human beings would deceive them and it was necessary to present the things as they are seen. The expressions such as "Similar to the history which is formed through gathering written documents, the novel is formed through the documents which the novelist has heard himself or has directly compiled; the historians are the storytellers of the past while the novelists are the storytellers of present" reflect the whole philosophy of the realists.

The theme in the realism is real life. The exceptional events which are fantastic aren't employed. The reader is presented an even which was experienced or it is doubtless to be experienced. The narrating person in realism is just human. A man who is introduced with his environment, behaviors and passions down to the last detail is seen in the work. Of course, this person is the product of its environment and has gained its character according to the conditions around him. The artist in realism hides himself in order to leave the reader to the work. From this aspect, it reminds classicism. The artist analyzes the events from an objective and practical point of view.

In addition to the social and economic developments of the 19th century, human beings also underwent changes. With the development of industry, large industrial centers which numerous workers gathered together and the workers and their families who were unable to read and write until that period or were deprived of learning opportunities started to learn reading and writing. Although awakening of the workers was effective in their going to school and learning to read and write; the working conditions which require educated workers in the professions that need education played an important role. During the first half of the nineteenth century, thus, a semi-brow mass-society which gradually increases was formed. This mass sought for a literature convenient to its cultural level in order to discover the pleasure of reading which he obtained

lately. The romantic literature which doesn't appeal to him and is valid until that period failed in satisfying this need. They are not interested in anything except daily activities, problems, politics and the events they read in the daily newspapers. They deprive of culture enough to understand the literature which is the product of imagination or literature written through inspiring from history.

In order to satisfy the need for such a reading, some newspapers in France started "serial novels" (Le roman-feuilleton). The inclination towards those novels which are published in daily newspapers in serial forms increased so much that the serial novels became one of the major competing elements among the newspapers. The serial novels increased the sales of newspaper and the name of the novel authors gained great popularization. The person who benefits from the serial novel system most was Eugene Sue (1804 - 1857). Sue became the most popular novel author of France until Emile Zola gained fame. Although Sue comes from a rich family, he chose his themes from lower class which was hard done in the society. In order to collect materials for his novels, he continuously walked through poor and dirty streets of Paris. He exaggerated some much in collecting material that he found himself with a worker girl whom he introduced himself as an interior designer. He reflected this girl and working and life conditions of a working girl in "Mysteres de Paris". In his novel which he narrated the misery of public and the injustice they encountered, he propagandized the social justice which public missed. The events which occur in the cities which public know well were employed in the novels written by him, flashy and luxurious life was used and hatred to the wealthy class was encouraged. In his works whose heroes were chosen among the lower class and rich aristocrats which were against them and the differences between two classes were displayed. While doing this, lower class was dignified. It was a literature directed to the left and social justice. Sue was loved so much with his novels that he was elected as the Member of Parliament from Paris in 1848.

As seen, realism came as a result of application of the process which thoughts were transformed to events and events were transformed into thoughts in the new industry age. Realism is a reaction against old and romanticism in a world where a new life, a new class and new concepts gained importance. The reason for going against the historical novel is that those novels are written as a result of dreaming not the result of observations. The realist novelist should analyze the ordinary people living in the society and should animate the characteristics of the society which those people formed and definite social classes through individuals. He should be instructive not a person who writes entertaining things [8].

#### IV. THE BIRTH OF VERISMO

The literature also has been one of the important elements in the opera art which embodies numerous branches of art and the reflection of realism into opera inevitable due to the effect of this characteristic. Since the realism in opera found its best application area in Italy and the most popular realists came from this place, this movement is called "verismo" which is the Italian equivalent of realism. Altar [2] explains the development of verismo in opera as follows: "The opera art of Middle Europe, especially German and Austrian opera art was tied to sagas and fairy tales (Mythos) which have maintained up to the recent past under the effects of romantic perception and understanding; the Italian opera which keeps away from

carrying such a heavy burden adopted naturalism through drifting away from romantic humor which removed by the satiety existing in the art of musical drama and this situation required the birth of verismo (realism) which developed in a realistic way".

The realist movement in opera gained power during the middle of 19th century. The realist opera perception which brought a new perception of art in staging and acting as well as playwriting was primarily defended against romantic opera perception and popular opera application. The thoughts which were the pioneers of realism in opera were explained the emerging of this new movement as a response to romanticism. Romanticism was criticized asserting its disconnection from life, unhealthy emotionality and artificiality. The defenders of the realist opera argue dealing with the realities of daily life, analyzing them through scientific methods, and present the findings to the audience with unadorned expressions. While determining the principles of realistic opera perception, a new remark was made to the perception of reflecting realities, the responsibilities of opera for the society was emphasized, the ways to apply the scientific methods were explained and the response to creating an illusion was elaborated. The thought of realist opera gave priority to core rather than form in composing, writing libretto, directing, and acting and gained a contemporary qualification through heading towards living problems of society.

The first product of Verismo school is "Cavalleria Rusticana" written by Pietro Mascagni in 1890 and then "Pagliacci" written by Ruggiero Leoncavallo (1882), they became to brother to each other. Although these two works are their first works, they gained the position of representatives of the verismo school. Later on, they became the symbols of verismo with Puccini de Mascagni and Leoncavallo.

Although Italy objects to the reality in opera, indeed, "Carmen" which was convenient to realist movement was written much earlier in 1875 by French Georges Bizet. It is possible to date the beginning of reality back to the earlier times. Again, Italy and "La Traviata" by Giuseppe Verdi who is one of the biggest names of romantic opera in the 19th century may be analyzed. When advanced further, it is possible to find the first remarks of realist movement again in "Louisa Miller" by Verdi. The theme of the last one was taken from Schiller, another romanticist like Verdi himself. La Traviata is based on "La Dame aux Camelias" by Dumas who is one of the representatives of French realist drama. Here a typical example of the transition to an age from another age is seen in Verdi's choice of a realistic theme although he is a romanticist. Verdi who is a romanticist plasticizes a realist theme in his own romanticism. Thus, an opera is formed through heading towards realism without leaving from romanticism.

#### V. IMPORTANT REPRESENTATIVES OF VERISMO

- Giuseppe Verdi (1813 – 1901)

Verdi is an artist who introduced the theatre to large masses through his works. The thing lies behind his success is he knows the opportunities of theatre well and gives his works so that he satisfies its needs. He behaved rigorously in finding theme to his operas and he dealt with contemporary themes people may enjoy. According to opera historians, he was the pioneer of an application nobody has dared up to then through discussing a contemporary theme related to public psychology.

When a beginning is sought for the application of realist movement of 19th century, definitely, Verdi should be

mentioned. Verdi, indeed, is a romanticist composer far from being a realist. When he chose *La Dame aux Camélias* by Dumas as the theme for his new opera, he designed the work to transfer all the reality into opera through using contemporary costumes and decors since the work in the contemporary age. A few months before the first show, on 1 January 1853, the section of a letter he wrote to one of his friend from Napoli, Cesare di Sanctis, proves his aim related to this: “..... I wrote *La Dame aux Camélias* which will probably be called as *La Traviata* for Venice. Due to costumes, the ages or other thousand hesitations, other composers wouldn't dare to start; however, I started with a great eagerness. Everybody complained when I offered to invite a humpback to the stages. However, I wrote *Rigoletto* with a great pleasure....” Just before the first show, he changed his mind due to the anxiety that the audience who was not accustomed to contemporary themes and contemporary costumes would find such an application odd and *La Traviata* was staged as it occurred in 1700's. Many years passed until it was staged as it was designed first, namely with the occurring date of 1852.

Two basic elements for an opera work: the libretto which presents the theme and the music written for it. the play *La Dame aux Camélias* by Dumas which forms a base for *La Traviata* is one of the most significant games of realist movement, even one of the first realist drama works [8].

- Georges Bizet (1838 – 1875)

Bizet who was highly impressed by the novel *Carmen* by Prosper Mérimée adopted this novel into opera. Bizet completed the work in 1874 and the show was held in 1875. However, the work drew heavy criticism due to its theme. Indeed, Prosper Mérimée was a romanticist writer and his novel *Carmen* is a romanticist novel rather than being realist. Despite this, the sections with a lot of cruelty transferred to libretto from the novel and the ways in handling them are all enough to regard the opera of Bizet rather realist.

*Carmen* was found odd by the French people who had internalized realist novel and drama. It was rejected as a vulgar thing which doesn't conform to Opera-Comique stage famous for its conservativeness. “The opera goers of Paris who provide theatre to public are so traditionalist and aristocrat that they didn't find the realism in *Carmen* enough to be put into stage. They couldn't realize that *Carmen* was the most significant opera written by a Frenchman. Before the Frenchmen comprehended it, the entire world had accepted it and so many years had to pass. After the response to *Carmen*, French composers didn't touch realism for 15-20 years until the Bruneau of 1890's and Charpentier of 1900 [8].

- Pietro Mascagni (1863 – 1945)

Pietro Mascagni who was the conductor of travelling opera groups learnt the real tastes of opera goers and achieved the awareness that opera goers prefer the topic taken from real life as they do in novels. It was the same awareness which made Mascagni to write *Cavalleria Rusticana*. The opera was so in demand that it was staged in Berlin just a few months after the first show in May 1890. This is followed by all the opera centers. The realism, dynamism and simplicity in the work catch the fancy of public as Mascagni estimates.

*Cavalleria Rusticana* was transferred into opera from the story with the same name by Giovanni Verga who is one of the realist writers of Italy and it means “the Bravery of Villagers”. In the opera of romantic age, the opera goers who are accustomed to the bravery among the aristocrats encounter

a different kind of bravery. However, the word concept bravery should be used with a cynical implication, because the behaviors of the majority of the characters are far from being brave [8].

- Ruggiero Leoncavallo (1857 – 1919)

Ruggiero Leoncavallo composed the opera “*I Pagliacci*” in order to submit to a competition for one-act opera organized by Sonzogno Publishing House which was the rival of Ricordi in 1888 since fell out with note printing house Ricordi from Milano. However, Pietro Mascagni won the first place in this competition with “*Cavalleria Rusticana*”.

The opera critic, Joseph Gregor, writes that the theme in the opera “*I Pagliacci*” was successfully transformed to libretto by Leoncavallo based on a real event. Moreover, Leoncavallo clearly explained in the prologue at the beginning of the work what he aimed in the opera “*I Pagliacci*”; thus, the real explanation of verismo was given as he stated in the following sentence: “Today, the poet is responsible from finding and revealing the terrifying and shivery realities of life” [2].

- Giacomo Puccini (1858 – 1924)

Puccini's opera which effectuates and pins his success was “*La Bohème*”. This work is also his first work which he headed for verismo. *La Bohème* was the first opera to keep up with the movement verismo with both the reality in the novel of Henry Murger which was the original base for the opera and own memories of Puccini transferred to the opera. However, the realism in *La Bohème* is different from that in *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci*. The realism in *Cavalleria* and *Pagliacci*, was formed with contrary applications as if trying to prove consciously that the movement they represent was a response to the romanticism. The reality was applied to the opera stage as the representation of life of lower class. This, namely, using the peasantry which was the opposite against the noble class which romanticism had dealt up to that time is the result of response element in realism. Puccini chose his characters among bourgeoisies and middle class. In his realism, there is no response to romanticism. His realism is realism which doesn't turn its back to romanticism but blended with it.

Puccini who blends realism and romanticism in *La Bohème* and the following plays *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly* and *La Fanciulla del West* he separated from romanticism in only one of his operas and achieved harsh reality. This opera is a one-act short opera, “*Il Tabarro*” [8].

- Umberto Giordano (1867 – 1948)

In Italy, one of the most significant artists in Verismo type of 20th Century opera is Giordano. The artist who received his music education in Napoli conservatory also gained a reputation out of Italy with the effectiveness of his melodies and his natural talent for histrionics and especially his opera “*Andrea Chenier*” was regarded as a very valuable by the critics helped this opera take its place in the repertory of world opera.

First of all, Giordano achieved success with his opera called “*Mala Vita*” (*Bad Life*). In his operas called “*Andrea Chenier*” and “*Fedora*”, he achieved a strong eloquence and clearly showed that he had a talent for interpreting musical dramatization free from abstention.

The examples for this attitude of Giordano who is claimed to follow Puccini in his works from the point of two basic factors such as kind and theme are his operas “*Fedora*” and “*Siberia*” [2].

- Alfred Bruneau (1857 – 1934)

Bruneau studied music with Jules Massenet in Paris conservatory. For that reason, German musicologist Hugo Riemann correlates that Bruneau mostly envisages verismo or, as Bruneau himself stated, realism with the fact he was impressed by some works of Jules Massenet. Majority of the musical stage plays which Bruneau created a specific verismo type are the operas which he composed by being impressed by the novels of French author Emile Zola.

- Gustave Charpentier (1860 – 1956)

Charpentier studied at Lille and Paris conservatories and trained by the teachers such as Massart, Pessard and Massenet. It is claimed that Charpentier was impressed by his teacher Massenet in giving products through impressing verismo or a term which French composers mostly prefer, realism. He contributed to the type of verismo through a single work of 4-acts called “Louise” which he regarded as a public opera.

## VI. CONCLUSION

The art of opera has experienced numerous different periods during the development process which occurred due to the great interest of public. During this process the social, political, economic and cultural changes the world experienced along with the developing movements of thought were also effective as well as opera experienced within itself from the point of art. Especially, the effects of the movements of thought developed in the 19th century had significant effects on the society and the effects of those movements were seen in opera as well as other arts.

As stated earlier, the art of opera consists of numerous branches of art. Literature is one of those branches of art, even it is the most important of it. Because, the two basic factors that form the opera work are ‘the text and music’. Thus, the developments in literature directly affect opera. The movement of realism which is affective on the literature of the 19th century also affects opera and reality is called ‘verismo’ in opera.

The thing to be mentioned at this point, however, is the atmosphere which formed a basis for the emerging of this movement. The base element here, in this direction, is the reflection of the innovations and changes seen in the life of public life into another product of society, works of art. Thus, the emerging of the movement verismo which provides a basis for study is one of the significant examples of this reflection. Because; the effects of economic, political, social and cultural events the society experiences are mentioned in the emerging of realism as a movement.

In parallel to this notion, it is clear that contemporary world of art is affected from numerous current issues and those effects would be reflected into the given works one way or another. In the socio-economic environment of 19th century, the environment occurring as the stunning progress of the technology and the globalizing world will form new perspectives and movements as well as the industrial revolution caused huge changes through starting a chain-reaction with a great effect.

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