



## Educational Utopia as a philosophical literary genre, through the prism of the works of Rousseau and Korczak

Efrat Davidov

### Abstract

This essay examines a unique literary and philosophical genre I call “Educational Utopia”, discussing the relationship between literature, philosophy, and educational practice. The essay consists of three parts: the first part reviews Literary Utopias, from which derives the sub-genre of Educational Utopia, including its formal and contextual characteristics. The second part closely examines two pieces that embody distinct Educational Utopias: “Emile or On Education” by philosopher and writer Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), and “School of Life” by Polish educator and publicist Janusz Korczak (1878-1942). The unique rhetoric applied when writing Philosophy of Education as utopian literature will be highlighted.

The third and final part of the essay extends beyond the discussion on philosophy and literature, focusing on the relationship between educational utopias and educational practices, through the prism of the biographies of the writers, Rousseau and Korczak. We see two different models of this relationship: a situation in which utopia is an idea and a vision to follow, compared to a situation in which the utopian creation completely replaces the educational practice itself. Thus, I hope to illustrate the function of educational utopia and its relevance to our lives as educators and human beings.