The importance of pace in Ian McEwan's "Saturday"

By Doreen Klahold

GRIN Verlag Gmbh Aug 2013, 2013. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 212x146x30 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Essay from the year 2011 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,0, University of Paderborn, language: English, abstract: 'A second can be a long time in introspection' (McEwan 80); these are Henry Perowne's words in McEwan's Saturday just before the collision of his Mercedes with the BMW of the petty criminal Baxter. However, not only Perowne experiences this apparent delay of time within the narration, but also the reader stumbles over the 'rhythm of the novel' (Knapp 130), when a second is adventitiously extended to several minutes. As a novel of consciousness, Saturday lays great emphasis on the character's individual thoughts and experience of time. That is why about 279 pages are necessary to describe one day, most of it not spectacular, in the life of the neurosurgeon Henry Perowne. A phenomenon which can be particularly seen during the first encounter between Perowne and Baxter: the event is unfolded on nineteen pages, although the story time is not very long, since Perowne arrives at his squash game only a few minutes...

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