Metaphern der Lokalisierung ungarndeutscher Identität – Wurzeln und Wege (Metaphors for the localization of Hungarian-German identity – roots and paths)

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Abstract: Identities are created not least through spatial relations. In the process, physical and social space is assigned meaning and thus integrated into concepts of self and community. In my paper I examine works of Hungarian-German literature that establish concepts of identity-spaces with reference to the settlement of ancestors in the 18th century in terms of their metaphorical structures. Settlement as an identity-constitutive event will be examined through the spatial metaphors of the root and the path. It will be proven that the root metaphor tries to fix Hungarian Germans in place, and that the path metaphor challenges the root metaphor – and thus a fixed Hungarian-German identity – through mobility and plurality.

Keywords: space; identity; Hungarian-German literature;