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Myth and metaphor in concepts of cultural and literary studies

Metaphor. Myth. Creative text. Literary studies. Cultural studies. Methodological plurality.

The article analyzes the complex and intangible relationship between myth and metaphor in creative writing. In contemporary literary studies the function of myth, similarly to metaphor, metonymy or symbol, is studied by substitution theories in the area of figures of speech and primarily on the semantic and linguistic level. The boundaries between metaphor, metonymy, myth and symbol are very subtle and often indistinguishable at first sight in literature and the arts, which gives scholars a wider creative space for interpretation. The modern interpretation of myth as artefact has been formed in discussion with theories of 20th century culture, where mythology is studied following an interdisciplinary principle (methodological plurality of the approaches of ethnology, social anthropology, philosophy and religious studies, history of mentalities, poetics, aesthetics and art history, comparative studies, etc.). The article will therefore focus on the function of mythology as the departure point for the formation of literary forms and genres in the area of the theory of archetypes (the concepts of Jung, Frye, Campbell, Meletinsky, etc.), as paradigms for the differentiation of literary protagonists and narrative situations (Lévi-Strauss), overlaps of the theory of myth and the theory of symbols (Cassirer) and symbolic communication (Frye).