

Literature as the Third Element

CORINA-MIHAELA BELEAUA

University of Georgia, USA

Abstract

When discussing literature, one needs to take into consideration various theories of translation and hermeneutics in interpreting a text. Hermeneutics, or the science of interpretation, “develops from the old art of divination and becomes the most important critical instrument of producing texts” (Spăriosu 9). Using several hermeneutic lenses, I would like to show that literature creates an appropriate context for a reconceptualization of the word dialogue. Literature mediates the reconfiguration of the word dialogue into a triad, comprising two persons (self+ other / I+ you) and a third constituent. How can one conceptualize this third element? Why is it relevant for the interaction between individuals? How does literature contribute to raising awareness of the presence of a third participant in a dialogue?

Keywords: literature, third element, dialogue, encounter, God, the self, the other.

Narrating Trauma in Octavia Butler's *Kindred*

ALEXANDRA MITREA

Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania

Abstract

This essay sets out to analyze the way in which African-American writer Octavia Butler engages the issue of trauma generated by the experience of slavery. It explores the narrative strategies employed by the writer in order to point out the effects of slavery on a personal present, shedding light on how the past lives in the present at the level of collective memory. The essay also dwells on the restoration of the self in the case of the protagonist who reclaims a painful past, confronts it, remembers what is lost and in the process of mourning for the losses finds recovery. By suggesting the symbiotic interplay between the past and the present, the essay points to the way in which the writer skillfully shows the impact of the trauma of slavery on the present.

Keywords: trauma, psychological wounding, slavery, collective memory, loss, narration, representations of race, interracial marriages

Mother Complex and Mythopeic Influence in
Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior*

SOHAIB MALKAWI
Independent Scholar, Jordan

Abstract

This article examines Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior* from a post-Jungian perspective. It analyzes the narrator's experience proving that her writing of this memoir amounts to an unconscious reprocessing and recording of her reconciliation with her mother. By translating and rewriting her mother's stories, Maxine manages to integrate her shadow and embrace her feminine nature after spending her youth rigorously trying to achieve intellectual prowess. The novel is an assortment of seemingly random talk stories Maxine heard from her mother in Chinese as a child. In a 2011 interview with Josephine Reed, Kingston stated that she started writing the novel in Hawaii, sitting in a hotel room and staring at the wall, not at any special scenery. The wall, I argue, symbolizes a psychological impasse, her mother complex. The randomness of this gesture, how she started writing, resonates with the post-Jungian analysis I present in this article and with the fact that the author's unconscious was an incentive for writing. In short, the wall Kingston was trying to break is an inner one—a barrier in the form of a mother complex that prevents her from letting go and fully experiencing her environment.

Keywords: Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*, Jungian analysis, post-Jungian reading, mother complex, analytical psychology, cultural, translation, rewriting, Chinese-American literature

"In the Shadow of a Dream":
The Metamorphic Influences of Guilt, Shame, and
Confession in The Scarlet Letter

RICHARD KOVAROVIC
Mercy College, USA

Abstract

This article aims to contribute to the ongoing analysis of *The Scarlet Letter* as a valuable work of psychological fiction with contemporary applications, and claims that guilt, shame, and confession act as the dominant catalysts for character transformation. It first defines and differentiates between guilt and shame, the former being action-oriented with more easily explicable causes, and the latter being one of internal pressure that alters and destabilizes the self. The distinctions are then used to demonstrate how, what types, and the order in which, guilt and shame metamorphose Hawthorne's characters, Dimmesdale, Chillingworth, and Hester Prynne. The men crumble, internalize or externalize their caustic emotions, and experience existential decay, while Hester emerges from the ignominy morally, spiritually, and psychically fortified and superior. We argue that such resilience is the result of public and private confession, an act of recalibration and stabilization, one that aligns the individual with a more honest version of the self. Parallels are then drawn between Hawthorne's work and the writings of C. G. Jung on the value of confession, the divided self, and the shadow, to show the modernity and universality of the novel, as well as the applicability of Jungian interpretation.

Keywords: Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*, guilt, shame, confession, Jung, secrets, the shadow, American literature

Individual Identity vs. Social Expectations: Gender,
Choice, and Change in Kate Chopin's Short Fiction

ANCA-LUMINIȚA IANCU
Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania

Abstract

Since the second half of the twentieth century, Kate Chopin has been hailed by modern critics as a woman writer "far ahead of her time" (the end of the nineteenth century). In her discussion of Chopin as an important forerunner of modernism, Avril Horner points out that "Both in style and content, Chopin anticipates modernism. Kate Chopin's subtle use of irony and her emphasis on choice combine to mark the dawn of modernism in a particularly interesting way" (145). In many of her short stories and novels, Chopin depicted the tension between the female characters' individual needs and the social expectations. Although many of her protagonists seem to abide by the traditional gender roles imposed on them by society, they also transgress them in subtle ways, thereby prompting a change in their perceptions of themselves as women with individual identities. This essay focuses on the young female protagonists of the short stories "A Shameful Affair," "The Kiss," and "The Unexpected," who, in the process of discovering their own agency in choosing a potential husband, attempt to question or challenge the prescribed societal conventions and gender expectations.

Keywords: Kate Chopin, short fiction, individual identity, social expectations, gender, choice, change, agency.

Courtship and Dance – A Journey to Self-Understanding
in Emma and Pride and Prejudice

ELENA MARCELA LUDU
Independent Scholar, Romania

Abstract

This article investigates the importance of dance and other rituals in courtship in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma*. It also addresses the complex socio-economic relations that come into play in wooing. It provides answers as to whether "happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance" (*Pride and Prejudice* 19) or whether "matrimony, as the origin of change" (*Emma* 7) is always disagreeable. I propose that in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma* Jane Austen uses conversations and letters to divulge her characters' inner feelings and that dancing provides the means by which intimacy is obtained and young people are brought closer. Furthermore, I detail on how courtship proves to be a process of self-understanding. Although it observes rituals, I argue that the courtship process does not presuppose a blind acceptance of a suitor. In both *Emma* and *Pride and Prejudice* Jane Austen shows that love does not suffice as maturity and self-knowledge play an essential part in maintaining a relationship going. I argue that compatibility on an intellectual level and mutual respect are key elements meant to secure a successful marriage.

Keywords: self-knowledge, rules of courtship, dancing, social rituals, celebrations, customs, ceremonies, values, compatibility

Francis Scott Fitzgerald and
the "Inverted" American Dream

ANA-BLANCA CIOCOI-POP
Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania

Abstract

The present article aims to uncover the extent to which Francis Scott Fitzgerald epitomized or actually helped create not only the roaring twenties in America, but also the modern definition of the American Dream. His novels and short stories shed light on the corruption of this Dream, which has evolved from the hope of equal opportunities to a materialistically oriented world view. We have chosen to analyse four of Fitzgerald's most acclaimed short prose texts in order to illustrate this point: "Babylon Revisited," "The Diamond as Big as the Ritz," "The Ice Palace" and "Winter Dreams."

Keywords: Fitzgerald, Jazz Age, American Dream, inverted, society, downfall, immorality, roaring twenties