

Abstract

This thesis analyses the construction of masculinity in the work of Mishima Yukio, whether and how it develops throughout the work and what function does it perform regarding literary composition. The works have been selected based on topic or plot and they are *Kamen no kokuhaku* (Confessions of a Mask), *Kinjiki* (Forbidden Colors), *Gogo no eikō* (The Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea), *Onnagata* and *Hagakure nyūmon* (Yukio Mishima on Hagakure). The problematics of gender and sexual orientation is viewed through the lens of queer theory while also considering the history of same-sex relations in Japan.

Keywords: Mishima Yukio, queer theory, masculinity, gender, homosexuality, Confessions of a Mask, Forbidden Colors, The Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea, Onnagata, Hagakure