Abstract:

In my work, I am focusing on a few interesting structuralist interpretations of the Oedipus myth. As a starting point for all other considerations I choose Lévi-Strauss’s method of structural analysis and its application on the Oedipus myth. This approach, which consists in revealing deep relational structures in myth, is creatively developed by Edmund Leach. I will try to show that Leach follows Lévi-Strauss’s principles, but takes into account a wider range of myths and comes therefore to different conclusions. Another original reinterpretation of structuralism has been offered by Terence Turner, who, unlike Lévi-Strauss, focuses on the story of the myth and makes it central to his conception. Turner tries to demonstrate that the analysis of the narrative sequence is crucial in the understanding of the Oedipus myth and that it allows us to glimpse the regularity in which its story is developing. Furthermore, I will attempt to outline the importance of liminality and religious power especially in Turner’s interpretation. The primary objective of my work is not to give the most plausible interpretation of the Oedipus myth but to evaluate selected interpretative methods. In my work, I will try to present several interpretations of the Oedipus myth, compare them and point to their valuable advances as well as their potential imperfections. In the final synthetic chapter, I will try to show some new connections and motifs arising against the background of analysed interpretations.

Key words:
Myth of Oedipus, Lévi-Strauss, Edmund Leach, Terence Turner, myth interpretation