

Keywords

Christa Wolf, myth, mythology, myth revision, Cassandra, Medea, social functions of literature

Abstract

The subject of this thesis is the incorporation of ancient mythology in the story *Cassandra* and in the novel *Medea: A Modern Retelling* by Christa Wolf with the backdrop of the author's own understanding of the function of literature. The first part of the work contains a theoretical introduction to the topic of myths and mythology and presents the most important theories about myths and their incorporation in literature. The subsequent part of the work focuses on the understanding of a myth and its function as used by Christa Wolf. The core of this work is an analysis of the literary incorporation of mythological substance in the writings specified above and a comparison with the incorporation of such substance in the works of ancient authors Aeschylus and Euripides, with the aim of showing through what means and what intentions the author has updated and revised the myth. This part of the work also includes an analysis of the poetological concept of Christa Wolf and the related social functions of literature and the author's role.