

Abstract

The influence of Ferdinand de Saussure on French structuralism

Ferdinand de Saussure is considered the founder of structural linguistics. His ideas went far beyond the bounds of linguistics, and he thus became a significant representative of structuralism, a school of thought that developed from his work. The present thesis will be concerned with Saussure's ideas, the basic terms that he established, and, above all, his impact on Claude Lévi-Strauss who employed Saussure's method in cultural anthropology, and applied it to totemism, blood relations or mythology. He laid the foundation for a diversified theoretical paradigm known as French structuralism.