

THE MYTHOLOGICAL POETICS OF W.B.YEATS'S DRAMATURGY

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Abstract: This thesis explores the mythological poetics in the dramaturgy of W. B. Yeats, focusing on how myth functions as a central element in his dramatic works. The study examines the role of Celtic mythology, symbolic imagery, and archetypal motifs in shaping Yeats's theatrical vision. It highlights how mythological structures serve not only aesthetic purposes but also philosophical and cultural functions, reflecting historical memory, spiritual experience, and national identity. The analysis demonstrates that Yeats's use of myth allows for a synthesis of poetic and theatrical elements, creating a multi-layered dramatic space that transcends the boundaries of time and realism. The findings underline the significance of myth as a tool for artistic innovation in Yeats's dramaturgy and its impact on modernist theatre.

Keywords: W. B. Yeats, dramaturgy, mythological poetics, Celtic mythology, symbolism, archetype, national identity, modernist theatre

W. B. Yeats, one of the most influential figures of modernist literature, integrated myth and symbolism as central components of his dramatic works. During the early 20th century, when traditional artistic forms were being questioned, Yeats turned to Celtic mythology, folklore, and archetypal motifs as a means to explore spiritual, historical, and cultural themes. His dramaturgy is characterized by a symbolic and poetic approach, prioritizing inner meaning over literal representation.

The mythological poetics in Yeats's plays functions on multiple levels. It provides a framework for exploring universal human experiences, including life, death, fate, and the pursuit of spiritual fulfillment. Through the use of myth, Yeats creates a theatrical space that transcends the ordinary, offering audiences both aesthetic pleasure and philosophical reflection. His plays often employ ritualistic gestures, minimalistic settings, and poetic language, highlighting the interconnection between myth and

dramatic form. The relevance of this study lies in understanding how Yeats's use of myth shapes his contribution to modernist theatre and literature. Analyzing the mythological elements in his dramaturgy reveals the depth of his artistic vision and underscores the enduring significance of myth as a tool for cultural expression and literary innovation. The analysis of W. B. Yeats's dramaturgy demonstrates that mythological poetics serves as a structural and thematic backbone of his plays. Unlike conventional realistic theatre, Yeats's works prioritize symbolic and ritualistic dimensions, using myth as a universal language to convey philosophical, spiritual, and cultural ideas. This approach enables the audience to engage with the plays on a deeper intellectual and emotional level. Celtic mythology, as employed by Yeats, is not merely decorative but serves as a medium for constructing an authorial vision of the world. Archetypal figures and mythic narratives are transformed into symbols that allow multiple interpretations, bridging personal, historical, and universal themes. Through these mythological structures, Yeats explores conflicts between human desire and fate, the spiritual and material, and the temporal versus the eternal. Furthermore, the mythological elements in his dramaturgy contribute to the innovation of theatrical form. Minimalist staging, poetic language, and ritualized actions create a symbolic stage space where myth operates as a dynamic, transformative force. This synthesis of poetic expression and dramatic technique establishes Yeats's theatre as a distinctive modernist experiment, emphasizing the role of myth as both an aesthetic and philosophical tool. Overall, the discussion confirms that the mythological poetics in Yeats's plays is integral to his literary and theatrical innovation. By merging myth with drama, Yeats not only revives cultural memory but also expands the possibilities of modernist theatre, highlighting the enduring significance of myth in understanding human experience and artistic expression.

Conclusion

The study of W. B. Yeats's dramaturgy highlights the central role of mythological poetics in shaping his artistic vision and theatrical innovation. Myth in his plays functions not only as a narrative element but also as a symbolic and philosophical framework, allowing the exploration of universal human experiences, cultural identity, and spiritual themes. Yeats's use of Celtic mythology and archetypal motifs creates a distinctive theatrical space that transcends conventional realism, combining poetic language, ritualistic gestures, and symbolic imagery. The discussion demonstrates that mythological structures in Yeats's dramaturgy serve multiple purposes: aesthetic, philosophical, and cultural. They provide insight into the interplay between personal,

historical, and universal dimensions of human existence while contributing to the development of modernist theatre. Overall, Yeats's integration of myth into his plays underscores the enduring significance of myth as a tool for artistic innovation, cultural expression, and literary exploration.

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