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The Structure of Wilde's Fairy Tales: A Proppian Perspective

Fairy tales belong to specific genre within the narrative fiction. The fairy tale genre is characterized by certain structural features that are specific to the type of narrative. Vladimir Propp's groundbreaking work Morphology of the Folktales (1968) is considered seminal in this area. This paper examines two of Oscar Wilde's fairy tales The Happy Prince and The Selfish Giant using Propp's model as a measure to assess the genre of the tales and the extent of their alignment with the text type.

Keywords: Oscar Wilde, Structural Analysis, Fairy tale genre, Propp

■ Introduction

Structuralism is a philosophical and an intellectual movement that happened in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. It originated as a response to the intimidating accumulation of knowledge during this time. The vast accrual of knowledge at that time was a mass of isolated specializations in specific areas of knowledge like, physics, psychology, genetics, Freudism, anthropology and the like.

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