



SRI AKILANDESWARI WOMEN'S COLLEGE WANDIWASH

**Contemporary Literary Theory
STRUCTURALISM AND POST STRUCTURALISM**

Class: PG ENGLISH

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STRUCTURALISM & POST-STRUCTURALISM

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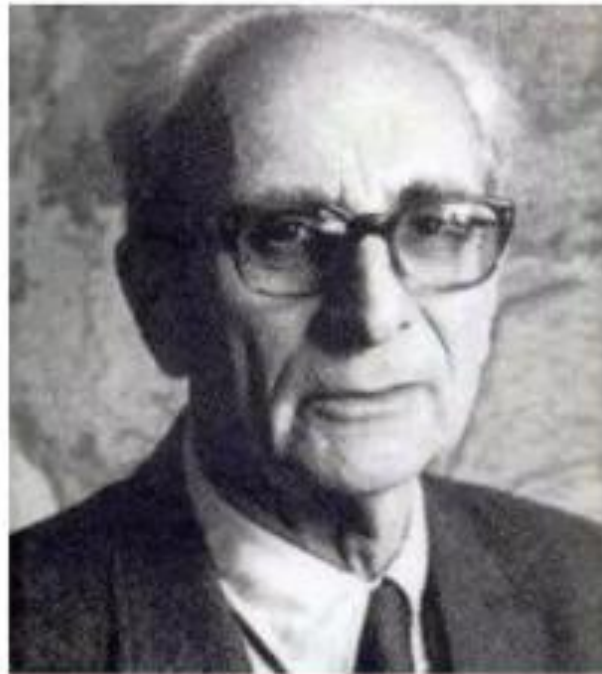
POST-STRUCTURALISM

FERDINAND DE SAUSSURE

- Ferdinand consider the language as a thing in it self.
- The meaning depends on the differences and relationship.
- Structuralists argue that the language constructs the sense of reality.
- Structuralism has two basic ideas from Saussure's work: relation between text & practices, and the meaning as the result of relationship of selection and combination by underlining the structure.



Claude Lévi-Strauss: Structur alism



Structuring oppositions in the Western

Inside Society
Good
Strong
Civilization

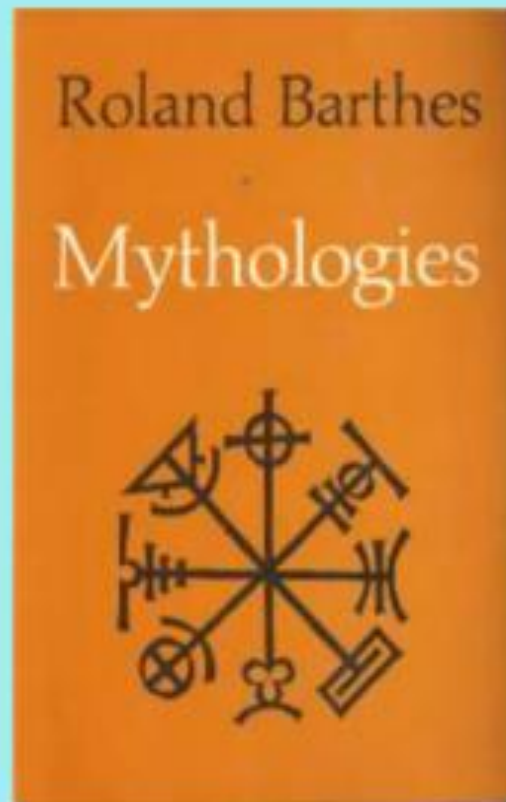
Outside Society
Bad
Weak
Wilderness

The Classic Western

1. The hero enters a social group.
2. The hero is unknown to the society.
3. The hero is revealed to have an exceptional ability.
4. The society recognizes a difference between themselves and the hero; the hero is given a special status.
5. The society does not completely accept the hero.
6. There is a conflict of interests between the villains and the society.
7. The villains are stronger than the society; the society is weak.
8. There is a strong friendship or respect between the hero and a villain.
9. The villains threaten the society.
10. The hero avoids involvement in the conflict.
11. The villains endanger a friend of the hero.
12. The hero fights the villains.
13. The hero defeats the villains.
14. The society is safe.
15. The society accepts the hero.
16. The hero loses or gives up his special status.

Mythologies

By Roland Barthes



Primary and Secondary Signification

Primary signification

Denotation

Secondary Signification

Connotation

1. Signifier 2. Signified

3. Sign

I. SIGNIFIER II. SIGNIFIED

III. Sign



Three possible reading perspective on understanding the image:

- The one who produces the myth
- The socialist reader
- The myth-consumers



Text Amplifying the Potential Connotation of Images



Rock-a-day Johnny 'My Baby Done Me Wrong' from the album Dogbucket Days.



Rock-a-day Johnny 'Drugs Kill My Best Friend'

Jacques Derrida

Post-structuralism is virtually synonymous with the work of Jacques Derrida.

For Derrida, the binary opposition, so important to structuralism, is never a simple structural relation; it is always a relation of power, in which one term is in a position of dominance with regard to the other.



Discourse and Power: Michel Foucault:

One of the primary concerns of Michel Foucault is the relationship between knowledge and power and how this relationship operates within discourses and discursive formations.

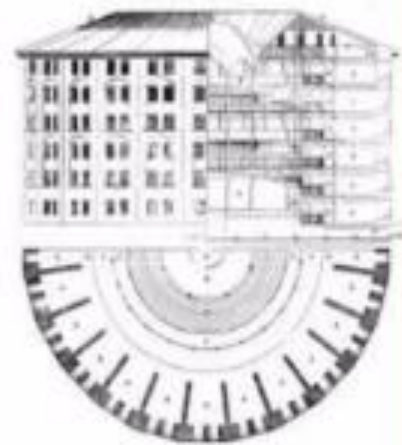
Discourses work in three ways: they enable, they constrain, and they constitute.



The panoptic machine

According to Bentham, the panopticon is 'A new mode of obtaining power of mind over mind, in a quantity hitherto without example: and that, to a degree equally without example' (Bentham 1995: 31).

According to Foucault, Bentham's panopticon is, therefore, profoundly symptomatic of a historical shift, from the eighteenth century onwards, in methods of social control.



THANK YOU