

Narrative Technique of Early Greek Literature

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1999 Fiscal Year Final Research Report Summary

Narrative Technique of Early Greek Literature

Research Project

Project/Area Number

10610533

Research Category

Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C)

Allocation Type

Single-year Grants

Section

一般

Research Field

文学一般(含文学論・比較文学)・西洋古典

Research Institution

Kanazawa University

Principal Investigator

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Project Period (FY)

1998 - 1999

Keywords

Narrative technique / Odyssea / Demodokos / The Homeric Hymns / The Hymn to Apollo / The Hymn to Hermes / Story-within-a-story / Ring composition

Research Abstract

1. The second song of Demodokos in the *Odyssey*(8.266-369) is the story of Ares and Aphrodite's adultery, which is characterised by an emphasis on contrivance, witty treatment of the gods, a light-hearted tone. This song takes the structure of a story within-a-story. By this device of embedding, it focalises the basic themes of the whole epic, namely, Odysseus' troubled journey home. The discussion concentrates on this function of thematic dualism and convergence in Book 8, but has wider implications in that it relates to a leitmotif of the *Odyssey* as a whole.
2. One of the most controversial problems about the Hymn to Apollo concerns the composition and unity of the hymn. The digression of the Typhon episode (305-355) has been regarded as an interpolation. However, structurally and thematically the hymn can be described as a unity, the digression of the dragon being linked with the rest of the hymn by the devices of repetition and nesting or embedding that constitute the narrative technique.
3. Hermes has perhaps the most complex character of any deity in Greek mythology. The narrative techniques used in the the Hymn to Hermes have an important influence on the presentation of the characters and on the structure of the text. The narrative characteristics of this hymn are : (1) the illustration of the conflict with Apollo in the form of that between inferior and superior ; (2) the development of a plausible and satisfying aetiological relation ship between narrative and cult, delineating the variety of Hermes' attributes, and most particularly, his elusive and ambivalent personality. The main theme and the theme of the representations of Hermes' nature are thus interrelated, and both resonate with each other, like a contrapuntal melody.

Research Products (6 results)

All	Other
All	Publications

[Publications] Noriko YASUMURA: "The Second Song of Demodokos in the Odyssey 8.266-366"Studies of Language and Culture Foreign Language Institute, Kanazawa University. Vol.2. 173-194 (1998) ▼

[Publications] 安村典子: "ホメーロス風讃歌第三番『アポロンへの讃歌』におけるテュポーンの挿話"『西洋古典論集』、京都大学西洋古典研究会. Vol.IV. 1-23 (1998) ▼

[Publications] Noriko YASUMURA: "Imaginative Intelligence of Hermes in the Homeric Hymn IV"金沢大学文学部論集. 19号. 141-162 (1999) ▼

[Publications] YASUMURA, Noriko: "The Second Song of Demodokos in the Odyssey 8.226-336"Studies of Language and Culture, Foreign Language Institute, Kanazawa University. vol. 2. 173-194 (1998) ▼

[Publications] YASUMURA, Noriko: "Digression in the Homeric Hymn III, the Hymn to Apollo"Classical Studies, Kyoto University. vol. XV. 1-23 (1998) ▼

[Publications] YASUMURA, Noriko: "Imaginative Intelligence of Hermes in the Homeric Hymn IV, the Hymn to Hermes"Studies and Essays The Faculty of Letters, Kanazawa University. vol. 19. 141-162 (1999) ▼

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