

# Childrens literature - the development of criticism

Routledge - African Books Collective: Literature, Literary Criticism and National Development

Description: -

children's writer, how his publishing house contributes to create the Dahl 'persona', in what way marketing strategies are responsible for the identity of the books, and how editorial decisions about the age range and, therefore, the classification of a manuscript as a book for children or for adults constructs a particular idea of what children's literature in opposition to adult literature is and, therefore, what is considered appropriate for children to read or not. My study thus attempts to draw a more complete overview of Dahl than what has been available until now.

The theoretical framework and perspective of my examination is supported on my reading of Karin Lenk-Oberstein's critical literary work (*Children's Literature Criticism and the Fictional Child*, 1994) and like-minded theorists like Jacqueline Rose (*The Case of Peter Pan or the Impossibility of Children's Fiction*, 1984) and the work of sociologists Alison James, Chris Jenks and Alan Prest (*Childhood* 1996; *Theorizing Childhood*, 1998), all of which regard the child not on biological and developmental psychology deterministic terms but as a sociocultural construction and, therefore, a site of complex meanings and discourses about 'childhood'.

It should be noted that although my examination of Dahl is mainly based on Anglo-American criticism, I have also explored and included in my study quotes and comments on Spanish criticism as well as references to concrete critical work of Dahl from French, Swedish and Italian sources.

Finally, I would like to indicate that this doctoral dissertation has been developed as a part of the project on "Thresholds and Text: A Development of a Theory of Liminality Applicable to the Field of Literary Discourse" (BFF 2000-0093) directed by Dr. Manuel Aguirre in the period December 2000-December 2003.

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Notes: Includes bibliographical references

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Literature Impacts Living Some of the great literary works like the Bible and Indian epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata, among others, provide society with the guiding principles of life.

**cfp**

In my next post, I will continue this discussion, and offer additional solutions to the problem of frequent criticism.

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