

A Relevance-Theoretic Analysis of the Temptation Scene in Shakespeare's "Othello"



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A RELEVANCE-THEORETIC ANALYSIS OF THE TEMPTATION SCENE IN SHAKESPEARE'S "OTHELLO"



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GRIN Verlag GmbH Sep 2014, 2014. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x2 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2013 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, grade: 1,0, University of Tübingen (Philosophische Fakultät, Englisch Seminar), course: Linguistic and Literary Perspective, language: English, abstract: The means of communication keep linguistics and literary studies occupied. They both try to conceive how we understand each other, how we extract meaning from utterances and how we use language to affect people in a predictable way. In the following, a linguistic theory encounters a literary text. Relevance theory as a cognitive pragmatic concept meets Othello by William Shakespeare. The focus of this paper is the linguistic analysis of the so called temptation scene, in which the villain Iago manipulates Othello skilfully and only by the use of language. The objective of the analysis is to gain a deeper understanding of how the means of communication can succeed in altering and manipulating the beliefs of an individual as it occurs in Othello. The analysis scrutinises Iago's utterances and communicative strategies as well as the underlying comprehension and inference processes by Othello. Relevance theory as an inferential model of human communication serves as a pragmatic framework for the analysis. The first part of this paper introduces Othello, the object of the examination. The play's plot, the characters and the temptation scene are briefly analysed from a literary perspective. In the following, the main points of relevance theory are explained as they were published by Dan Sperber and Deirdre Wilson in 1989 and edited in 1995. Within the context of this paper, a full account of the theory cannot be given. However, the basic communicative and cognitive principles as well as...



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