

Folklore and Literature: Historical Approach to Thematic, Structural and Stylistic Relations

A. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The nature of folklore and literature as separate but related categories will be discussed with reference to:

- i. the concepts of ORAL TRANSMISSION, WRITING, and PRINT (Parry-Lord hypothesis; Birger Gerhardsson, Memory and Manuscript; Chaytor, From Script to Print; McLuhan, The Gutenberg Galaxy; Father Walter Ong's studies of Tudor style);
- ii. the concept of AUTHORSHIP in folklore and literature (theories of folklore genesis; conceptions of the writer-artist in different periods);
- iii. the concept of TRADITION in folklore and literature (genre, decorum, conventions, the rhetoric handbook; 18th century antiquarianism, romantic nationalism and the literary revival of folk traditions; relationship of conservatism of oral tradition to culturally accepted range of individual creativity and innovation in oral tradition);
- iv. the concept of AUDIENCE in folklore and literature.

B. HISTORICAL FRAMEWORK

Theories regarding the evolution of literature will be discussed with reference to the places in the history of literature assigned to folklore (Hypothetical relationships between carroll, ballad, epic, romance, marchen) and popular culture (prose collections of fables, folktales, exempla; chapbooks; broadsides).

C. TECHNIQUES OF ANALYSIS

The analysis of folklore's influences upon and relations to literature ~~must~~ ^{will} begin with the IDENTIFICATION OF FOLKLORE:

- i. the problem of GENRE definition, terminology and classification in folklore and literature will be discussed with reference to the distinction between 'analytic' and 'native' categories;
- ii. the notion that 'annotation' is a means of verifying that an item is folklore; the concepts of 'motif' and 'type'; and the 'comparative method' will be discussed with reference to their relevance in establishing THEMATIC relationships between folklore and literature
- iii. STRUCTURAL relationships will be discussed with reference to the work of Propp, Dundes, Ben-Amos, Jason, Scott, Bremond, and *Ryglan* + others and an emphasis placed upon how structural analysis can reveal the rules for combining and ordering thematic elements;
- iv. STYLISTIC relationships will be discussed with reference to the

nature of 'oral styles' and the notion of the Rhetoric Handbook as an inventory of culturally relevant units of style and form and the rules for their appropriate use.

D. FOLKLORISTIC INFLUENCES UPON LITERATURE AND LITERARY INFLUENCES UPON FOLKLORE

Fabliau, romance, literary ballad, fable, ~~and~~ fairy tale and other genres will be discussed and compared with their folkloristic counterparts. For example, a verbatim transcription of an oral marchen will be compared with a marchen edited by Grimm, Jacobs and Lang; and with the literary fairy tales of Anderson, Wilde and Tolstoy.

The theories of Wesselski and others regarding the influence of literature and print upon oral tradition will be discussed.

E. LITERATURE AS ETHNOGRAPHY AND ETHNOGRAPHY AS LITERATURE

Literary genres such as 'chronicles,' 'travel books,' 'journals,' and 'biographies,' particularly those of early periods will be discussed in connection with ~~folk history~~ notions of 'oral' or 'folk' history; processes of legend formation and their relations to ethnographic description. Particular reference will be made to Bede, A History of the English Church and People; Aubrey, Brief Lives, Boswell and Johnson, The Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides; Miller, The Crucible and the works of such authors as Hardy, Sholom Aleichem and Isaac Bashevis Singer. *Herodotus, etc.*

Ethnographies and 'folk autobiographies' will be analyzed as works of literature. Particular reference will be made to such works as Agee, Let us Now Praise Famous Men; Talayesva, Sun Chief; Left Handed, Navaho Indian, Son of Old Man Hat; Herzog and Zborowski, Life is with People; Valinowski, Argonauts of the Western Pacific; ✓ Levi-Strauss, Tristes Tropiques, Castenada, The Teachings of Don Juan; Jan Yoors, The Gypsies.