

Women on Women: Two Modern Feminist Interpretations of the Medea Myth

ქალები ქალების შესახებ: მედეას მითის ორი
თანამედროვე ფემინისტური ინტერპრეტაცია

Nadareishvili Ketevan

ნადარეიშვილი ქეთევან

American Comparative Literature Assosiation

American Comparative Literature Assosiation Annual Meeting 2021, 8-11.04, Virtual Conference.

Abstracts

The reinterpretation of old texts near always is an attempt to find new answers to the eternal issues or to use the old matrixes for analyzing the contemporary crisis of one's own world.

Medea's centuries old story seems to be one of the most popular discourses for articulating the feminist problematique. Towards the end of the XX century women authors started to reflect on the Medea issue.

The paper aims to consider two stories about Medea as seen by two women writers, one being the play *Medea* by the well-known feminist writer and the drama specialist O.Taxidou and the second – the play *Medea as Medea* by the young postmodern Georgian writer M. Beriashvili.

In both plays we watch the story as seen by Medea herself –so traditional male narrative is retold from women viewpoint. The world around these two Medeas' is drawn differently by the authors. Taxidou presents a broad panorama of problems – a relationship between the empire and the Third World (Medea being its representator) and women's fate in this context, while Beriashvil is concentrated on the pervasive passion of the men around Medea – be it her father's sexual desire toward her or Jason's pathological dream to obtain the Golden Fleece –the symbol of glory through her. Despite the differences both author suggest that the world around is responsible for Medea's terrible revenge and of making her just "who she is".

The conclusions of the paper will suggest the useful insights for the discourse of women's rewriting of literature.

Key Words: Reinterpretation; Medea; Olga Taxidou; Madi Beriashvili; Feminist discourse; Postmodern drama