

Representations of Myth in William Faulkner's *Intruder in the Dust*

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Abstract:

Writing the South in Faulkner's works is characterized by its recourse to myth which is deeply linked to the ideologies incarnated in the region of the South and especially rooted in the white male ideology. Through his use of myth in *Intruder in the Dust*, William Faulkner tries to represent both the mythical Yoknapatawpha County through the myth of the land as well as the protagonist Lucas Beauchamp as a mythic epitome of miscegenation who is falsely accused of shooting a white man in the back. In this respect, this paper will study the myth of the racial south and the Southern mythical stereotypes about Lucas Beauchamp who is depicted through the Sambo myth and the myth of the black savage. This paper will explore how Lucas challenges Yoknapatawpha's strict classifications of identity as regards race, which heightens and exacerbates townspeople's racism toward him. The current paper will show that Faulkner's use of myth is related to his southern identity which leads him to study man's relation to nature and to community. This paper argues that myth is incorporated into the collective identity of the American South. This in turn, mirrors the controversial interests of this Southern writer and his critical adaptation of myth which relates to the modernist orientation of his fiction. Accordingly, the manifestations of modernism in Faulkner's book are detected through his use of myth which is reflected at the level of the southern identity and the themes conveyed.

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