An Analysis of the Functional Figures in Carson McCullers’ The Ballad of the Sad Cafe using the narrative models of Vladimir Propp and A.J. Greimas

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Abstract: The paper proposes to analyse Carson McCullers’ The Ballad of the Sad Cafe from the structural perspective. The narratological principles of Vladimir Propp and A.J. Greimas are adopted as the methodological basis for the paper. It discusses some of the principles of “structuralism” the contributions of the notable linguists and narratologists such as Ferdinand de Saussure, Vladimir Propp and A.J. Greimas and their narrative principles and models which would be applied on the selected novel for analysing the narrative ‘content’: that is, of characters, their functions and setting, the constructed nature of the narrative and the significance of the role - functions of the fictional figures which constitute the essence of the narrative. It also examines the vision of life suggested by the narrative functions and the narrative structure.

Keywords: narrative, narratology, structure, structuralism, functions, actors, actants, role-play.

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