

PSYCHOLOGY AND LITERATURE: SOME PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS ON JOYCE'S THE DEAD

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ABSTRACT

This work aims to present one of the most original and complex characters of the 20th century, the writer James Joyce (1882-1941). The study consists of a careful research and psychological investigation of the Irish writer's thought through the analysis of one of his best-known works, *Dubliners*. In particular, the last story of Joyce's extensive work, *The Dead*, will be examined. In the course of the work, particular emphasis will be placed on the themes and concepts present and recurring in Joyce's works and in *Dubliners*. This study aims to show how James Joyce carefully portrays certain themes belonging to contemporary man and recurring within his stories and how through the combination of narrative techniques such as epiphany, the flow of thought and the use of different linguistic registers, he succeeds in delving into humanity characterised by fragility and weaknesses. Within this work, particular emphasis will be placed on the characters depicted by Joyce and how they represent the expression of his creativity, thanks also to his ability to masterfully bring out their emotions, feelings and inner conflicts. In the course of the analysis, it will be highlighted how the concept of paralysis presented by Joyce is one of the central themes of *The Dead*. The paralysis represented by Joyce is a paralysis in which the city of Dublin and its inhabitants are immersed. A moral paralysis, the difficulty of changing, of coming out of a structured reality that will lead the Irish writer to move away from the city and escape.

Keywords: James Joyce, Psychology, *Dubliners*, *The Dead*, Creativity

INTRODUCTION

This study aims to show the reader an inner analysis of the Irish writer James Joyce. The study offers some psychological considerations on Joyce's short stories, paying particular attention and careful consideration to the characters in *The Dead* as products of his creativity and to the recurring and re-proposed themes in one of his most important works, *Dubliners*. The realisation of James Joyce's literary works constitutes the most explicative exterior aspect of the writer's personality and represents a substantial element for understanding and contextually giving an iconographic reading of his work (*The Dead*) and of his characters that we believe represent the product of the author's inviolable subjectivity [5].