

ABSTRACT

Varga, A. 2002: Såsom i en spegel. En studie i Göran Tunströms roman *Juloratoriet*. (Through a Glass, Darkly. A Study of Göran Tunströms Novel *The Christmas Oratorio*, 1983). Swedish text with a summary in English. 267 pp. Norma, Skellefteå, ISBN 91 7217 045-X.

This dissertation is a narratological investigation centering on the relationship between form and thematics in Göran Tunström's novel *Juloratoriet* (*The Christmas Oratorio*, 1983). The goal of the study is to demonstrate the way in which the novel is constructed as a literary text. Hermeneutics, structuralism and phenomenology provide the study's theoretical and methodological basis.

Chapter II, the first analytical section of the dissertation, examines the ways in which *Juloratoriet* employs magic-fantastic strategies without breaking the realistic code that constitutes the novel's overall plan. Chapters III through V are thematically interrelated by focusing the mourning processes of the novel's characters Aron and Sidner. The theme of mourning is explored from three formal perspectives in these chapters. The 'dualistic' structure of the novel is investigated, utilizing the opposition idyll/breakdown, in Chapter III. Chapter IV explores the novel's use of allegorical descriptive techniques, while motifs and narrative structures from Christian contexts are dealt with in Chapter V. The novel's metatextual strategies are analyzed in Chapter VI. Two analytical directions are taken here. The first involves existential and esthetic themes emerging through the figure Victor and his relationship to the text i.e. the novel in its entirety. The second direction is an exploration of the novel's intricate use of the metafictional technique 'mise en abyme'.

Key words: Phenomenology, hypertextuality, allegory, metafiction, mise en abyme, magic-fantastic.

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