Ancient Greek Philosophy In Carlos Fuentes' The Campaign

Michael Scanlon
Foreign Languages and Literature Department
National Cheng Kung University
Tainan, Taiwan

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to show and analyze the influence of ancient Greek thought in The Campaign by Carlos Fuentes. Much of my paper shall be devoted to a detailed explanation and discussion of classical scepticism. As I shall show, there are a couple of occasions in the novel where Fuentes depicts or describes abstract sceptical concepts in concrete terms; he uses vivid, concrete imagery to depict sceptical concepts and ideas.

After giving an introductory history of scepticism, I shall show to what a great extent classical Greek scepticism informs the narrative of the text. As my sources, I have used English translations of the works of Pyrrho and Sextus Empiricus who are, respectively, the first sceptical thinker and the last great sceptical philosopher. As secondary sources, I shall use quite a few philosophical studies and encyclopedias of philosophy. In addition to scepticism, I shall also take up an analysis of the ancient atomist thought of the philosopher, Democritus. When appropriate, I shall also consider the thinking of modern philosophers such as Bakhtin and his theory of dialogue. The concept of dialogue is something which is crucial in the novel.

key words: scepticism, atomism, dialogue, mutability
卡羅斯所著「運動」一書中的古希臘哲學

史培龍

摘要

本文之目的在呈現並分析卡羅斯所著『運動』一書中古希臘思想之影響。本文使用大部份筆幅，解釋及探討古典的懷疑主義。在本文論述中，將指出范特斯於小說中多處運用具體的名詞來描述抽象的懷疑觀念。他利用鮮明、具體的意像來描述懷疑的觀念及想法。

在簡短介紹懷疑主義的歷史之後，本文將呈現希臘古典懷疑主義對該本小說全書描述之影響。本文引用多位懷疑主義思想家庇羅及最近之偉大懷疑主義哲學大師謝特斯，安比里克斯二人英文翻譯之作品，做為取材之主要根據。另外，本文亦將採用相當多哲學方面的研究及專科全書，做為次要之取材來源。除懷疑主義外，本文將分析古代元子論者對哲學家德謨克里特之法。在適當的情況下，本文將同時探討現代哲學學者巴丁及其對話理論。對話的觀念在小說中佔有相當重要的地位。

關鍵字：懷疑主義，元子論，對話，可變性