

ABSTRACT

IDEO-LINGUISTIC RHETORIC: NEGOTIATING SIGNIFICATION AND IDEOLOGY IN VICTORIAN NOVELS

Ideo-linguistic rhetoric is a proposed theoretical approach to interpret Victorian novels which posits that an examination of the relationship between ideology, discourse, and rhetoric can provide new insights into the way the symbolic nature of language influences and maintains ideological structures and the effect this has on the interpretation of texts. This study delineates ideolinguistic rhetoric through the conceptualizations of ideology and language provided by rhetorical and discourse scholars, namely Friedrich Nietzsche, Mikhail Bakhtin, and Michael McGee, and provides an application of this approach to a selection of Victorian novels consisting of Jane Eyre, Mayor of Casterbridge, and Kim. The purpose of this study is to create a cohesive framework for the analysis of Victorian novels.

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