

Lo sguardo della zanzara e dell'ape. Echi antropomorfici in Leopardi

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Abstract

The Gaze of the Mosquito and the Bee: Echoes of Anthropomorphism in Leopardi

The anthropocentric paradigm, ridiculed by Leopardi's satirical prose in the first half of the Nineteenth century, remains so relevant today that the geological age in which we live has recently been defined as Anthropocene. If, however, anthropocentrism has been a basic, and often unquestioned, philosophical assumption in the Western world, anthropomorphism and its rhetorical devices (personification, prosopopoeia, apostrophe, etc.) has been neglected as a démodé means of representation for its patent artificiality, until recent ecocritical approaches to literature went back to explore the relationship between human and non-human nature in a new light. Adopting a stylistic and ecocritical perspective, this study explores the relationship between anthropomorphism and the critique of anthropocentrism in the work of Leopardi and considers personification as a master trope in his writing.

Keywords: anthropomorphism; anthropocentrism; personification; prosopopoeia; romanticism.