

Pas pour rien ?
Le “bilinguisme” dans la poésie de Mallarmé

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Abstract

Pas pour rien? Bilingualism in Mallarmé's Poetry

In order to enhance the poetic potential of his mother language Stéphane Mallarmé felt he had to go through English. For him, English is the language of memory, preserving ancient French words and therefore a motley, alloyed language, teeming with life. And if French is the language of accuracy, order and clarity, English is one of unregulated efflorescence, of possible vocalizations around the skeleton of consonants – what fascinated him was the disarray happening between sense and writing. Sense is not everything: as the psychoanalyst does with his patient, the writer too tries to endow his own discourse with the coupled power of ambivalence and accuracy. Thence Mallarmé came to discover that in order to find his own language a writer should not necessarily assume that the language of the Other, functioning as a medium, is another language.

Keywords: Mallarmé; bilingualism; foreign language; poetic language; subject.