

**MULTIDIMENSIONAL
DISCOURSE
IN THE FICTION
OF EVA FIGES**

MULTIDIMENSIONAL DISCOURSE IN THE FICTION OF EVA FIGES

Małgorzata Godlewska

**Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego
Gdańsk 2019**

Rodzicom

Reviewer
Dr María Jesús Lorenzo-Modia

Technical editing
Katarzyna Jopek

Cover and Title Pages Design
Karolina Johnson
www.karolined.com

Typesetting and Page Layout
Michał Janczewski

The book was financed from the Vice-Rector for Research
of the University of Gdańsk and from the statutory funds
of the Faculty of Languages of the University of Gdańsk

© Copyright by Uniwersytet Gdański
Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego

ISBN 978-83-7865-935-8

Gdańsk University Press
ul. Armii Krajowej 119/121, 81-824 Sopot
tel./fax 58 523 11 37, tel. 725 991 206
e-mail: wydawnictwo@ug.edu.pl
www.wyd.ug.edu.pl

Online bookstore: www.kiw.ug.edu.pl

Print and bound by
Zakład Poligrafii Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego
ul. Armii Krajowej 119/121, 81-824 Sopot
tel. 58 523 14 49, fax 58 551 05 32

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	11
Main Stages and Common Issues in Figes's Literary Career	13
Chapter 1	
THEORETICAL BACKGROUND	21
The Origin of Intertextuality: Dialogism	21
Julia Kristeva's Concept of Textual Processes	26
Gérard Genette's Phenomenon of Transtextuality	30
The Theory of Gynocriticism and Intertextuality	33
Polish Studies and the Concept of Intertextuality	36
The Notion of Memory	38
The Historiographical Memory Concepts of Pierre Nora and Paul Ricoeur	38
Jan Assmann's Concept of Cultural Memory	41
The Individual Model of Literary Interpretation	43
The Concept of Memory and the Model of Intertextuality	43
The Hermeneutical Approach and the Model of Intertextuality	46
Chapter 2	
AN INTERTEXTUAL MOSAIC IN FIGES'S EARLY NOVEL	51
Intertextual Dialogue with Doris Lessing's <i>The Golden Notebook</i>	52
The Vision of a Patriarchal Society and Jane Austen's Intertext	56

The Idealised Visions of the Past	62
Modernist Intertexts in <i>Nelly's Version</i>	65
The Novel's Title and Its Intertextual Referent	67
The Carnavalesque Aspects of the Novel	71
Architextuality	73
Versions of Memory	82
Chapter 3	
THE ASPECT OF LIGHT AND SHADOW	
IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WORLD IN FIGES'S <i>LIGHT</i>	89
The Composition of the Novel and Ekphrasis	91
The Motif of Light and Shadow in the Composition of the Novel	93
Dialogue and Monologue in the Text	95
Intertextual Discourse with <i>Four Quartets</i>	97
The Recurrent Motif of Light and the Characters' Worldviews	101
Intertextual References to Virginia Woolf's <i>To the Lighthouse</i>	107
The Question of Art and the Artist	115
Chapter 4	
GHOSTS: THE HUMAN STRUGGLE	
AGAINST THE FLOW OF TIME	125
Terminological Confusion	125
The Temporal Setting	126
The Poem's Intertextual Reference to T.S. Eliot's <i>The Waste Land</i>	129
Recurrent Motifs as Connectors between Past and Present	132
The Motif of Wind and the Dialogue with Virginia Woolf's <i>The Waves</i>	139
Biblical Motifs in the Setting and Depiction of the Protagonist's Self-Exploration	145
The Motif of Snow and the Two-Fold Aspect of Memories	150
The Relation between the First and Last Chapters of the Prose Poem	153

Chapter 5

HISTORY AND FICTION IN THE PROCESS

OF RECOVERING LOST CHILDHOOD 163

Dualism of the Novel and the Question of Genre 164

 Autobiography and Its Types 164

 Fairy Tales: Functions, Patterns, Theoretical Background 167

Fairy Tales and Autobiography in the Creation

of the Novel's Fictional Reality 169

 Fairy Tale Model of the World 169

 Time and Timelessness: Features of Tales in Figes's Narration 172

The Dominance of the Mythical Sphere of Fairy Tales 173

The Impairment of the Fairy Tale Model of the World:

The Question of the Setting 175

The Convergence of the Historical Dimension

with the Mythical Sphere 180

Parallelism of Fairy Tales and Autobiography 184

The Development of the Historical Plane of Narration and Memoir 191

The Functions of Fairy Tales and the Final Version of History 194

CONCLUSIONS 199

REFERENCES 213

GLOSSARY OF TERMS 221

ABBREVIATIONS 224