

Abstract

This diploma thesis is concerned with the issues of fatherhood in the works of Kenzaburō Ōe. This influential Japanese writer is a father of a handicapped child and the motifs of fatherhood are very important in his works. This thesis is concerned with various repeating father archetypes in a wide selection of Ōe's works between the years 1960 and 1990. It focuses on the dynamics between these archetypes and on relationships based on longing for a father figure. It also discusses a wider context of ideas on an ideal father present in the post-war Japanese society and selected events from Ōe's life that had influenced his understanding of fatherhood.

Keywords: Kenzaburō Ōe, archetypes, fatherhood