The Village as Mise-en-Scène in Modern Irish Drama

By:
Khàlid Shahîn Al Harîrî

Supervisor:
Prof. Mahmoud Al Shra’a’ah

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Khalid Shahin Al Hariri

Thesis Examination Committee:

Prof. Mahmoud Al Shra’ah (Chairman)

Prof. Mahmoud Kharbutli (Member)

Prof. Naser Athamneh (Member)

Dr. Nayef Al Joulan (Member)
Abstract

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This thesis examines the staging of the village in some modern Irish plays within the context of semiotics. Thus, the research investigates the semiotic function of the items of the mise-en-scène of the village through tracing the signifying process of the dramatic/theatrical message so as to prove that the village is a fertile semiotic space for the stage. After that, the study explains how the village has been utilized as a transmitter of semiosis that promotes social and national awareness.

The study examines six plays to be taken as examples of the utilization of the village as mise-en-scène. The first two plays are *The Playboy of the Western World* and *The Tinker’s Wedding* by John Millington Synge; the second two are *Cock-a-Doodle Dandy* and *Time to Go* by Sean O’Casey; the third one is Lady Gregory’s *Spreading the News*; and the fourth one is *Cathleen ni Houlihan* by William Butler Yeats.