ABSTRACT

DEÁK MÁRTON: : Unteachable classics? – How mythical functions work in Csongor és Tünde

The study aims to examine the focuses in teaching Mihály Vörösmarty's drama, *Csongor és Tünde*, in connection with processing and interpreting classics in the classroom. My first thesis is that *Csongor és Tünde* is a unique experiment by Vörösmarty to explore the Hungarian folklore through the Hungarian folk tale *Árgirus királyfi* – and all difficulties concerning the generic class, the genre and the dramaturgy, are inherent in this experiment. Looking at similarities and differences between the drama and the tale, I study the three levels, the real world, the world of the tale and the mythical world. Examining the central symbols, e.g. the golden apples, the dream and the cyclical time and structure proves the merge of these world levels. My other thesis is that Iser's fiction theory can help to reveal and understand the connection and interplay among the three levels. Moreover, love, represented as a mythical force, gives a perspective of philosophy history to the text.

Keywords: *folklore, myth, tale, drama, world tree, golden apple, cyclical structure, fiction, imaginary, 'Menschheitsparabel'*