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il Sileno
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ISSN 2611-3171

Literature, Geography and The Poetics of Space

Tracing Historical Narratives Across Literary Landscapes

Sara Ansaloni & Eleonora Gioia (Eds.)

7. Anthropocene and Ethics of Care: a Narrative Ethics approach in Hayao Miyazaki fictional World

Aldo Pisano¹

Abstract

This chapter explores the ethical implications within Hayao Miyazaki's films, focusing on a Narrative Ethics approach. First, it begins by examining historical representations in Miyazaki's fictional worlds, which reflect both personal and collective trauma from WWII on multiple levels, highlighting the landscapes altered by war. Following this, the analysis shifts to the timeless and utopian structures in Miyazaki's works, particularly in relation to ecology and the Anthropocene, seen through the interplay of reality and imagination, adulthood and childhood. Recurrent themes include the relationship between nature and technology, depicting boundaries between historical and timeless contexts, as well as between adulthood and childhood. Furthermore, Miyazaki's films emphasize meta-empathy and the ethics of care, encouraging viewers to connect with characters who care for others, nature, and even inanimate entities. Through these portrayals, Miyazaki's

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characters take on a performative role, fostering a sensitivity towards nature as a living system within the Anthropocene era.

Keywords: *Narrative Ethics, Ethics of care, Anthropocene, Ecologism, Childhood*



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