STRUCTURE IN BABEL TOWER

Q: what are the structures that illustrate or even support this book?

babbletower bran house snail shells (twins) frederica's bildungsroman language itself... the human mind frederica's own book, laminations

Q: how does this relate to Nietzsche? to Berlin Babylon?

Nietzsche speaks a little bit about architecture... he works with it and against it, like Byatt

architecture

N 57/ read passage... arch. opens way for Rausch

double bind: language destroys and creates us

committee on language and education (esp. 187-89) front line for building new society

193/ linguistics, chomsky babbletower fable on letting everything loose

ultimately: we need literature for this imaginary space, so that it doesn't get acted out in real life

babbletower and nietzsche are deeply moral b529

reacting against placement, frederica's placement within the family

culvert wants to go from babble to new universal language (language of love!)

--chomsky's generative grammar

--an ideal language-user could generate and understand new and unique grammatical sentences without ever having encountered them in practice

--we're hard-wired, programmed for language

--there's a deep grammar in all of us

Ontology in Nietzsche and Byatt

consider these passages

- N55/ one must know who one is
- N20/ reason believes in the will as an absolute cause; it believes in the "I,"... and projects its belief in the I-substance onto all things
- N21/ I'm afraid we're not rid of God bc we still believe in grammar

21G.017 Germany and its European Context Fall 2002

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: http://ocw.mit.edu/terms.