

Review of 'The Language Of Dreams: Psychoanalysis, And Literary Culture' by Eleanor Dobson

The Language Of Dreams: Psychoanalysis, And Literary Culture by Eleanor Dobson is an article published in *Modernism / Modernity* Vol. 29. The article itself was written by Doctor Eleanor Dobson, an Associate Professor at the University of Birmingham, who often discusses Egypt, focusing on the works from the 19th century onwards as well as paying particular attention to the connections between Egyptology, the Occult and Antiquity.¹

The article is divided into a few chapters, with the exclusion of the introduction and the notes, the article includes 2 chapters, which seamlessly transition from one to another, with the former providing the reader with the appropriate background information required to understand the latter. Structurally, the article contains 77 footnotes, located at the very end of the article, with the Bibliography and additional notes included there. There are Harvard-style citations within the text itself, which might not be ideal for a reader not versed in academic writing, but at the same time, they provide the reader with quick reference if needed. The text itself is formatted well, written in the third form, granting it more professional sound, and where appropriate illustrations are provided, allowing the reader to refer to them as needed during the reading of the article. The work itself is easy to read, with clear starting and ending points, guiding the reader through the author's narrative and providing appropriate source material, as well as references as needed. This, as well as the language used throughout the work, suggests that the article was written for people who are not experts in either area discussed (Egyptology or Freud's ideologies).

The article by Dr Dobson is a journey through the aspects of sexuality, especially the phallic cult present in Ancient Egypt, psychoanalysis and Freud's Ideology. It also serves as an example of an interdisciplinary work, where an expert in one field, in the case of Eleanor Dobson, is capable of making judgements and observations in a field of their interest, using their own expertise, knowledge and experience to back their own statements and due to this unique perspective Dr Dobson is capable of making observations others may omit.

It is an exploration of the phallic symbolisms and sexuality in the archaeological works done in Egypt, focusing on the restricted presentation of the archaeological finds during Victorian times.² The author explains multiple references to the Egyptian god Min, the deity of sexual potency,³ and other examples of the phallic cult, not only in archaeological discoveries but also in literary sources and their development and adjustment of the narration to appropriately target different audiences, such as children.⁴

In summary, the article was competently put together, and written by an expert uniquely equipped to approach the subject with an "out-of-the-box" thinking. The entirety of the work often refers to Freud's analysis of the psyche and draws interesting connections between this and the Egyptian Hieroglyphs, comparing dreams and the Hieroglyphs. Her statements go as far as to make a direct connection between the censored discussion of Ancient Egypt, at least of sexual nature, and Freud himself,⁵, making this an exceedingly interesting reading.

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University of Birmingham, *Dr Eleanor Dobson BA, MA, PhD, FHEA, N.A.*,
<<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/english/dobson-eleanor.aspx>>, [Accessed 18 May 2023].

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Eleanor, Dobson, 'The Language Of Dreams: Psychoanalysis, And Literary Culture', *Modernism/Modernity*, Vol.29, Number 3, (2022), pp.601-602.

3

Eleanor, Dobson, 'The Language of Dreams' p.601

4

Ibid. p.606

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