

Monica Bottez^{*}

***ANOTHER PENELOPE:
MARGARET ATWOOD'S THE PENELOPIAD***

Keywords: *epic; quest; hybrid genre; indeterminacy; postmodernism.*

Abstract: *The paper sets out to present The Penelopiad as a rewriting of Homer's Odyssey with Penelope as the narrator. Using the Homeric intertext as well as other Greek sources collected by Robert Graves in his book The Greek Myths and Tennyson's "Ulysses," it evidences the additions that the new narrative perspective has stimulated Atwood to imagine. The Penelopiad is read as propounding a new genre, the female epic or romance where the heroine's quest is analysed on analogy with the traditional romance pattern. The paper dwells on the contradictory and parody-like versions of events and characters embedded in the text: has Penelope been the perfect patient devoted wife, a cunning lustful pretender, or the High Priestess of an Artemis cult? In conclusion, the reader can never know the truth, being tied up in the utterly puzzling indeterminacy of meaning specific to postmodernism.*

^{*} University of Bucharest, Romania