

ABSTRACT

WICKER, EMILY DUNN. Terministic Screens and Cultural Perspectives: A Pentadic Analysis of the Attribution of Motive for the September 11th Event. (Under the direction of Steven B. Katz.)

The research in this project examines the motives attributed to the September 11th attack on the United States by different cultural perspectives, using Kenneth Burke's rhetorical theory of Dramatism to examine speeches and articles that were published immediately following the attack. The dramatisitic, or pentadic, analysis focuses on four different cultural perspectives: France as represented by *Le Monde Diplomatique*, Iran as represented by the *Tehran Times*, Israel as represented by the speeches of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, and the United States as represented by the speeches of President George W. Bush. In each perspective, five elements are defined and analyzed: act, scene, agent, agency, and purpose. The analysis is in hypertext. In doing the analysis in hypertext, one cultural perspective is not privileged over another. Thus the reader is able to see how each perspective describes the event, and can link either to another screen in that perspective or to a corresponding screen in another perspective. The analysis is preceded by a discussion of the dramatisitic critical framework that explains key terms used in the analysis. The Conclusion shows how each perspective is, in Burke's terms, "a way of seeing and not seeing" the event, and how we can learn from our observations.

Terministic Screens and Cultural Perspectives:
A Pentadic Analysis of the Attribution of Motive
for the September 11th Event

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A thesis submitted to the Graduate Faculty of
North Carolina State University
in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the Degree of
Master of Art

Department of English

Raleigh

2003

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