



The Voice of Rapture: A Symbolist System of Ecstatic Speech in Oscar Wilde's Salome (Hardback)

By Karl Toepper

Peter Lang Publishing Inc, United States, 1991. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 231 x 157 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. With Wilde's *Salome* (1893) as an exemplary text, this book examines the conditions under which speech -constructs- ecstatic experience. The author considers Wilde's text as a complex Symbolist -system- of relations between rhetorical devices and attitudes toward language. By identifying the components of the system, the book provides a theoretical model for understanding the power of language to -construct- specific emotional states. The dramatic nature of Wilde's play further indicates that, contrary to popular perception, ecstasy is not -beyond- language but in it. Rapture possesses a -voice-, but this voice emanates from a communication system which is actually -outside- of the body which speaks it. Movement toward ecstasy is therefore not a release from system but a supreme manifestation of it.

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