

Howell, Jason. *Kroetsch's Carnavalesque World: A Bakhtinian Reading of 'The Words of My Roaring,' 'What the Crow Said,' and 'Seed Catalogue'*. Thesis (MA [English]), University of Manitoba. Ann Arbor: ProQuest/UMI, 1992. (Publication No. MM77978)

Abstract

This study draws on Mikhail Bakhtin's theory of carnival to explore the imagery of renewal through destruction in Robert Kroetsch's *Seed Catalogue*, *The Words of My Roaring*, and *What the Crow Said*.

Following the outlining of Bakhtin's theory of carnival in the first chapter, the second chapter on *The Words of My Roaring* explains how Johnnie Backstrom's "grotesque" bodily energy ultimately affirms life and inspires his drought-stricken people with belief in the return of rain. The third chapter concentrates on the inversions of male/female and white/indian hierarchies in *What The Crow Said*, and discusses women and indians as life-affirming figures. The fourth chapter on *Seed Catalogue* addresses Kroetsch's carnivalesque account of his own growth as a poet. The final chapter briefly compares the conclusions of this Bakhtinian study with the findings of other critical approaches.