**BEOWULF’S CHARACTERISATION**

The present work is meant to find out the strategies used by the poet to characterise the character of Beowulf, the legendary hero of the Geats.

To introduce the character the poet chooses the telling technique, indeed there is a narrator who tells about him.

He presents the character in media res, thus planging the reader into the situation and in doing this he substitutes his name with the personal pronoun “He”.

The pronoun is connoted by the allitteration of the sound “H”, thus focusing the reader’s curiosity who wants to find out the identity of the protagonist.

In addition the poet uses the absolute negation “No one else” together with the simily “Like him” to underline his uniqueness, which is also connoted by the adjective “Alive”. Indeed, this adjective underlines the bravery of his actions.

Later the poet recurs to the absolute superlative of the adjective “Mighty”, which is usually used referring to God and highlight his godly features with the expressions “On home ground” and “On earth”. Indeed, these expressions underline his superlative skills, also connoted by the alliteration of the sound “M”, in the expression “Mightiest Man”.

Moreover, the adjectives “High-born” and “Powerful” together with the uncle’s mention “Hygelac’s thane” refers to his noble social abstraction, that gives him power. His power is also underlined by the expression “He ordered a boat”, that gives him authority, highlighted by the sentence “He announced his plan” that attests the presence of an audience. Besides the verb “To announce” derives from “Annunciation”, that refers to a religious event.

In addition, thanks to the expression “A boat that would ply the waves” the reader understands that the character is competent in sailing.

The presence of the expressions “Nobody” and “No elder” creates an anaphoric structure that underlines one more time his uniqueness, while the fact that “Nobody tried to keep him” makes the reader understand that he is a respected with a high reputation. Since people spur him to leave and support his ambition, the intelligent reader understands that the character is a person who inspires faith.

The simile “Like the leader he was” conveys his qualities and does not allow replicas, while the use of the noun “Leader”, which derives from the verb “To lead” underlines his skills in organizing plans, enunciating, enforcing them, and getting help through omens.

Moreover, the nouns “Warrior” and “Captain” convey his bravery and altruism. Indeed, he decides to help people in danger and fight for them.

The use of the expression “Canny pilot” underlines one more time his sailing talent, thus connoting him with an adjective that refers to his ploy.

In the second stanza the poet uses the warriors’ behavior, who “Climbed eagerly”, thus pointing out one more time the main character’s leadership. In addition, the alliterative expressions “With a will in their wood-weathered “and “Over the waves with the wind” create the image of a stately boat, that may be a metonymy to refer to the character’s superlative features. Besides the simile “Like a bird” connotes the boat and the character giving them agility and velocity.

Eventually the saying “They thank God for the easily crossing on a clam sea” reinforces one more time his ability in sailing, while the warriors’ immediate intervention connotes his willingness to help people in need.