

*Abstract: Our intention in this study is neither to define myth nor to create an interpretative typology; rather, it is to find a link between myth and literature by establishing a trace in the formation of a myth which is very old and dynamic. Our focus is on the story of Medea and its multiple versions, particularly on the way in which different literary accounts, which centre on the character of Medea, have led to the construction of a very complex and contradictory myth in Euripides' play Medea. Before Euripides, Medea is not regarded as an entirely fearsome sorceress, a monster obsessed with revenge, her children dying of other causes, but Euripides creates a new literary myth based on other existing versions. The main purpose of our study is the examination of the artistic means and procedures used by the ancient playwright Euripides to represent, in literary terms, the character of an ancient myth, Medea, as a literary archetype reproduced in various ancient texts. A special emphasis is on the manner in which the fundamental situation of the story of Medea has been subject to essential thematic changes which have led to the coining of what we know nowadays as the Medea myth.*