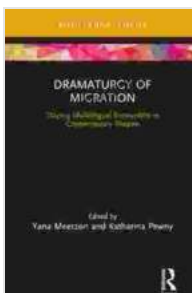


# Staging Multilingual Encounters in Contemporary Theatre: A Focus on Dramaturgy

In an increasingly globalized world, theatre has become a potent platform for staging multilingual encounters. As artists and audiences from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds come together to create and experience theatre, the need for effective strategies to negotiate linguistic and cultural differences has become paramount. Dramaturgy, as a practice that engages with the text, performance, and production of theatre, plays a crucial role in facilitating these encounters and ensuring their artistic and communicative success.



## Dramaturgy of Migration: Staging Multilingual Encounters in Contemporary Theatre (Focus on Dramaturgy)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3079 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 160 pages



## Dramaturgy and Linguistic Diversity

Dramaturgs are involved in all aspects of the theatrical process, from the selection of texts to the rehearsal process and the final production. In the context of multilingual theatre, dramaturgs face the challenge of working with texts that may be written in multiple languages, and with performers and audiences who may have diverse linguistic backgrounds. This requires a high level of linguistic competence, as well as a deep understanding of the cultural contexts from which the texts and performances emerge.

One of the key tasks of a dramaturg in multilingual theatre is to ensure that the text is accessible to all audience members, regardless of their linguistic background. This may involve translating the text into multiple languages, creating surtitles or other forms of visual translation, or adapting the text to make it more readily understandable by non-native speakers. Dramaturgs also work closely with directors and actors to develop strategies for delivering the text in a way that is clear and engaging, even for those who may not be familiar with the language.

### **Dramaturgy and Cultural Diversity**

In addition to linguistic diversity, dramaturgs in multilingual theatre must also navigate cultural diversity. Theatre is a deeply cultural art form, and the meanings and interpretations of a text can vary significantly from one culture to another. Dramaturgs must be sensitive to these cultural differences and work to ensure that the production is respectful and inclusive of all cultures represented.

This may involve researching the cultural backgrounds of the performers and audience members, consulting with cultural experts, and adapting the text or performance to make it more relevant to the specific cultural context. Dramaturgs can also play a role in facilitating intercultural dialogue

between performers and audience members, helping to create a space where different cultures can learn from and engage with each other.

## **Case Studies**

There are a number of notable examples of multilingual theatre productions that have successfully navigated the challenges of linguistic and cultural diversity. One such example is the play "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams, which was performed in a multilingual production at the National Theatre in London in 2013. The production featured a cast of actors from a variety of linguistic backgrounds, and the text was translated into multiple languages, including English, Spanish, Arabic, and Chinese.

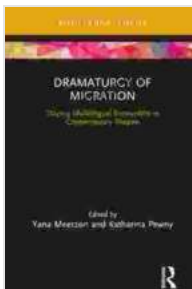
The dramaturg for the production, Chris Thorpe, worked closely with the director and actors to develop a production that was accessible to all audience members, regardless of their linguistic background. This included creating a surtitle system that projected the text in multiple languages, as well as working with the actors to develop a performance style that was clear and engaging, even for those who may not have been familiar with the language.

Another example of a successful multilingual theatre production is the play "The Jungle Book" by Rudyard Kipling, which was performed in a multilingual production at the Young Vic Theatre in London in 2016. The production featured a cast of actors from a variety of linguistic backgrounds, and the text was translated into multiple languages, including English, Hindi, Urdu, and Bengali.

The dramaturg for the production, Gbolahan Obisesan, worked closely with the director and actors to develop a production that was accessible to all

audience members, regardless of their linguistic background. This included creating a surtitle system that projected the text in multiple languages, as well as working with the actors to develop a performance style that was clear and engaging, even for those who may not have been familiar with the language.

The staging of multilingual encounters in contemporary theatre is a complex and challenging undertaking, but it is also a rewarding one. When done well, multilingual theatre can create powerful and moving experiences that transcend linguistic and cultural boundaries. Dramaturgs play a crucial role in facilitating these encounters by ensuring that the text is accessible to all audience members, by navigating cultural diversity, and by working with directors and actors to develop productions that are clear, engaging, and inclusive.



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