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**TIME, RECOLLECTION, MYTH:  
TOWARDS THE GENRE DEFINITION OF ARUNDHATI ROY'S  
THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS**

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The article suggests a genre model for novel-myth which can be discerned in «The God of Small Things» by Arundhati Roy. The author argues against devising the model solely on the basis of parallels between the content of the novel and mythological images and motifs. Instead such mythomodelling categories as time, recollection and reader are investigated. It is demonstrated how the discrepancy between the time of story and discourse (G. Genette) defines the mythical nature of characters and their relations. The interplay of pro- and retrospections resulting from the second of these categories allows to define the novel as the ritual of recollection (M. Eliade). As a result, the reader in the novel becomes the participant of this ritual and is isomorphic in this role to the characters.

**Key words:** Indian postcolonial novel, Arundhati Roy, novel-myth, time, recollection, story, discourse, isomorphism.