

National Taiwan University
Graduate Institute of Foreign Languages and Literatures
2021 PhD Program Admissions Examination
Subject: American Literature (40%)

While speaking to an audience at Wesleyan College for Women in Macon, Georgia in the Fall of 1960 with the title “Some Aspects of the Grotesque in Southern Fiction,” Flannery O’Connor described a sense of “Southernness” that might not be properly recognized by the reader at that time. She talked about the writer’s dilemma: “If you are a Southern writer, that label, and all the misconceptions that go with it, is pasted on you at once, and you are left to get it off as best you can. I have found that no matter for what purpose peculiar to your special dramatic needs you use the Southern scene, you are still thought by the general reader to be writing about the South and are judged by the fidelity your fiction has to typical Southern life. I am always having it pointed out to me that life in Georgia is not at all the way I picture it....” Please write an essay to discuss what makes Flannery O’Connor a Southern writer as her “Southernness” is concerned.