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*La teoria dei «tempi verbali» in Tempo e racconto 2 di Paul Ricoeur*

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The question of the verbal tense system only appears at the third level of the wide structure of Ricoeur's *Temps et récit*, where there is an analysis of the novels of Woolf, Mann and Proust. I argue that it represents a temporal archi-structure of human experience and that it is constructed by the narrative work. Following the studies of Benveniste, Hamburger and Weinrich, and contrasting writers such as Woolf and Verga, I examine and discuss the role of the modernist revolution in literature with its deep ontological innovation of the notion of *reality*. Finally, the analysis of Morante's *Aracoeli* shows that the *novel* as a genre goes back up the biological-historical matrix of time, to the archaic darkness which is kept in the background of Ricoeur's work.