
CONTENT: WE HAVE TO FILL IN GAPS. REZEPTIONSÄSTHETIK.

Hogan, "The Text (II)," 115-139. Handout, 25 pp.

A. Note the "cognitive" approach.

Introspection. The older XIXC psychological method. 131.7 "It is this prototype that initially makes us dislike Cal." 132.1 "For me at least . . . '"

B. 115.5 Distinction between story and discourse = distinction between form and content.
Remainder of chapter: how you get from discourse to story.

C. Various principles that get you from discourse to story--

1. 117.4 Principle of minimum departure

2. Principle of identity:

118.9 Role of memory for continuity. Solms & memory & perception.

119.8 Thematic reading: issues of narration and film.

121 Complex inferences about Picasso picture.

3. Time

4. Continuity. 123.6 Ball under sofa --> "Naive physics" of infancy.

5. Space. 126.8 We organize space around human activity. Remember the Hasson paper.

6. Character. Prototypes. Titanic uses character structures from Western but inverts them.

7. Narrator 132.8.

D. "Story" leads him to "universals" defined on 133.8. 3 dominant narrative structures all based on happiness: 1) personal context = romantic love. 2) social context = domination. 3) physical = food.
Cp. Lord Raglan, Cambridge school, Jungians, Campbell, etc. nnh early interest.

STORY IS COGNITIVELY AND EMOTIONALLY COMPLETED (?) BY RDR.

Young and Saver, "Neurology of Narrative." Handout, 13 pp. At first, introspective, philosophical in method. 75.4 turns neurological.

A. 3 systems for narrative.

1. amygdalo-hippocampal, episodic memories.

2. left peri-sylvian region -- language

3. frontal cortices and subcortical connections.

B. Kinds of dysnarrativia:

1. Amnesics (amygdala hippocampus) arrested narrative.

2. Confabulation --unbounded narrative.

3. Under-narration. Fail to construct and explore trial narratives.

a. can generate narratives but without emotional markers.

4. De-narration. Dorsolateral frontal cortices. Fail to organize experience in action-generating frame.

C. Fact that inability to make narrative is pathological proves universal necessity for narrative. Query.

D. Concept of decoupling (=separation of mental action from physical action). What is the evolutionary advantage of this? If decoupling is working right, 3 pieces:

- 1) inhibition of motor output
- 2) correct judgment of veridicality (I am only imagining this)
- 3) use of semantic memory to formulate accurate perception of real or imagined events.

E. Disorders of decoupling--

- 1) judgment of veridicality impaired (dreaming)
- 2) being stimulus bound = underutilization of decoupling. "Utilization behavior."
- 3) obsessive-compulsive disorder: overactivity of ventromedial frontal circuits. Overutilization of decoupling: reminative thinking to exclusion of action.

What have we been calling decoupling? Willing suspension of disbelief

DECOUPLED -- WE CAN PROJECT INTO TEXT.

Solms, "Example of Neuro-Psychoanalytic Research." Handout, 13 pp.

A. Neuro-psychoanalytic method--dual aspect monism.

1. Lesion study
2. Free association.

B. Korsakoff's' syndrome

1. Lesions to dorsal medial thalamus; hypothalamus; basal forebrain nuclei; frontal cortex.
2. Clinical features:
 - a. loss of memory (anterograde and retrograde--Ribot's law).
 - b. confabulation
 - c. possibly failure of executive system.

C. Seeming random thoughts are not random, but wish-fulfilling.

1. Replacement of external reality by internal, psychic, wish-fulfilling reality.
2. Exemption from mutual contradiction.
3. Timelessness
4. Primary process: one object replaces another at will.

Very like dreaming. And these four are characteristic of SF's "system unconscious."

D. Understanding of syndrome. Whatever was holding down this wish-fulfilling mentation is knocked out. Damage produces not just deficit, but tendencies are also released.

CONTENT: WE PROJECT WISH-FULFILLING FANTASIES INTO TEXTS--WHY?

Holland, "Cognitive Linguistics." Handout, 7 pp.

1. Cognitive theory of metaphor. Mapping source to target.

- a. Primary metaphors: source is bodily. 358bot.
 - b. 359.1-4 The details of mapping.
 - c. erroneous metaphors: container metaphor for language.
 - i. mask over activity of reader/analyst.
2. Turner. "Blended space."
 3. Dreams as metaphors.
 - a. Are unconscious processes metaphorical??
 4. Relativism or "experiential" vs. objectivism or subjectivism

THIS HAS TO DO WITH CONTENT FOR US

Damasio, Descartes' Error (N.B.--1994), "The Body-Minded Brain," pp. 223-244. Handout, 22 pp.

- A. Body proper and brain and mind not separable.
- B. "The self is a repeatedly reconstructed biological state." 226.9
- C. Brain images body but brain also changes body.
- D. "Mind" arises out of whole organism, not just brain. It represents the outer world in terms of the modifications it causes in the body proper. 230.2. Insular cortices and S1 and S2. He thinks anterior insula is the region key to a sense of the viscera. 237.8
- E. Perceive environment with two signals:
 - i. from specialized sense organs (eyes, ears)
 - ii. from representation of entire body as a functional map. = a feeling of the body as we see. This is in the background. Motor systems engaged along with sensory systems. Mind has to be embodied.
- F. Neural basis for self. At each moment, self is reconstructed.
 - i. representations of key events. And key facts.
 - ii. recent events plus plans about them (=motor).
- G. How do we get subjectivity of experience? sum on 242.9
 - i. brain reacts to the images from sensory cortices. Signals from images go to subcortical nuclei (amygdala, thalamus) and multiple cortical regions. They activate dispositions to respond. Alter body image.
 - ii. brain describes perturbation of state of organism, generates an image of the process of perturbation, and displays image of the self perturbed.
 - iii. Posits a third set of neural structures, a convergence zone. This ensemble builds a dispositional representation of the self in the process of changing as the organism responds to an object. Activates in early sensory cortices an image of what the disposition is about. Subjective perspective arises from content of third kind of image, that of an organism in the act of perceiving and responding to an object. 243.1. This is nonverbal.

THIS HAS TO DO WITH CONTENT FOR US.

Lakoff, "How Unconscious Metaphorical Thought Shapes Dreams." Online, 33 pp.
http://www.clas.ufl.edu/ipsa/journal/2001_lakoff02.shtml

1. Use of symbolism instead of free association. Query.

2. Metaphorical Systems are unconscious the same way that grammar rules and such are unconscious. Not tabooed unconscious, ordinarily. No way to get conscious control.
3. Weak interpretation (interpretation by non-dreamer) vs. strong interpretation (meaning to the dreamer). Requires extensive knowledge of dreamer's life.
4. Nine points.
 - Dreaming is a form of thought.
 - Dreams not random but natural way to express charged concerns.
 - Metaphor is grammar of unconscious.
5. Interpretations of several dreams. Uses several clusters of metaphors.

Faust, "Obtaining Evidence of Language Comprehension." Handout. 25 pp. Student of Chiarello.

Right hemisphere adds meanings to individual words for jokes, metaphors, etc. Poetry!!

General thrust of all these papers--

How do we create content?

- 1) inferences to go from discourse to story, filling in gaps, making a coherent narrative. Bordwell, Hogan. German Rezeptionsästhetik.
- 2) The confabulation papers.
 - Young & Saver: different kinds of dysfunction in expanding narrative because of different kinds of brain lesions.
 - Solms: take away frontal lobe controls and wish-fulfilling "unconscious" content pops up.
- 3) metaphor
 - Holland explains Lakoff's theory.
 - Damasio: self as perception of body or self changing in response to environment. Mind based in body.
 - Lakoff: we think and dream in body metaphors.
- 4) laterality
 - Left hemisphere gets whole sentence syntactically. Right hemisphere deals with individual words.
 - Both hemisphere bring up all possible word meanings. Left hemisphere clamps down in the interests of "sense" of sentence syntactically understood. Right hemisphere does not clamp down, doesn't do syntax. If sentence doesn't make sense, recapture right hemisphere meanings.
 - Right hemisphere necessary for jokes, metaphors.

Next week:

What does literary "meaning" mean?

11. March 24. What is the "content" of a literary work? What is "meaning"? How does literature mean? Or does it? <!Notes for this session are now> <!A href="brnbk411.pdf"> <!online>

Discussion:

What is "content" in literature?

What is "meaning" in literature?

Who makes the meaning? Who decides what this is "about"?

Why do we enjoy poems, plays, stories, or movies?

Reading:

Holland, "What Is Content?" Online. 29 pp.

Sharpe, "Psycho-Physical Problems." Handout. 15 pp.

Holland, "The Barge She Sat In." Online.

Holland, "Form as Defense." Online. No, you have already read this.

Holland, "Meaning as Defense." Also online.