

Table of contents

Acknowledgements

IX

CHAPTER 1

Introduction: Theoretical positions towards the author concept

1

- 1.1 Death of the Author 4
 - 1.1.1 “La mort de l’auteur” 4
 - 1.1.2 Intentional Fallacy 7
 - 1.1.3 Narrator vs. Author 8
 - 1.1.4 Implied Author 10
- 1.2 Resurrection of the Author 14
 - 1.2.1 Feminist and postcolonial approaches 14
 - 1.2.2 False identities 16
 - 1.2.3 Profession: writer and personality 20
- 1.3 Reception aesthetics 24
- 1.4 Discourse theory 28
 - 1.4.1 Author intent and attitude 29
 - 1.4.2 Literary comprehension 33
- 1.5 Empirical research in authorial representation 36
 - 1.5.1 Reading satirical stories 37
 - 1.5.2 Understanding metaphors 39
 - 1.5.3 Reading strategies 41
 - 1.5.4 Reading in an educational context 43
- 1.6 Taking position 46
 - 1.6.1 Motivation 46
 - 1.6.2 Aims and objectives 50
 - 1.6.3 Terminology 50
 - 1.6.4 Assumptions 56

Author inferences in thinking aloud

- 2.1 Methodological considerations on the think-aloud method 62
- 2.2 An exploratory study: inference categories 65
 - 2.2.1 Method 66
 - 2.2.2 A first impression 71
- 2.3 Protocol analysis 72
 - 2.3.1 Transcribing and segmenting 72
 - 2.3.2 Defining inference categories and setting up a coding scheme 73
 - 2.3.3 Coding protocols: procedures and intercoder reliability 79
- 2.4 Protocol analysis and post-reading tasks 80
 - 2.4.1 Results of protocol analysis 80
 - 2.4.2 Factors instruction, text and reader expertise 84
 - 2.4.3 Results of post-reading tasks 88
- 2.5 Discussion 94
 - 2.5.1 Reader-generated author inferences 95
 - 2.5.2 Effects of factors on inference generation 98
 - 2.5.3 Conceptual and methodological implications 100

Reading as joint pretence

- 3.1 Theoretical considerations on the reading of fiction 104
 - 3.1.1 Speech act theories 105
 - 3.1.2 “It takes two to tango”: fiction as joint action 107
 - 3.1.3 Limitations of the game of make-believe 111
- 3.2 Selection of materials: a pilot study 117
 - 3.2.1 Method 119
 - 3.2.2 Results and implications 122
- 3.3 Effects of text manipulation on author inferences reports (Experiment 1) 126
 - 3.3.1 Method 126
- 3.4 Results 131
 - 3.4.1 A first impression 131
 - 3.4.2 Manipulation check of text stimulus 133
 - 3.4.3 Readers and default assumptions about the implied author 136
 - 3.4.4 The implied author’s intentions, identity and moral position 138
 - 3.4.5 “Immoral” text segments 141
- 3.5 Discussion 141

On-line measurement of author inferences through affective priming I 147

- 4.1 Affective priming paradigm 149
 - 4.1.1 Two studies 150
 - 4.1.2 Underlying mechanisms 153
 - 4.1.3 Possibilities and limitations 155
- 4.2 Three pilot studies 157
 - 4.2.1 Selection of text primes 157
 - 4.2.2 Pilot study I: Results and conclusion 158
 - 4.2.3 Selection of targets 160
 - 4.2.4 Pilot Study II: Results and conclusion 161
 - 4.2.5 Selection of author prime 162
 - 4.2.6 Pilot Study III: Results and conclusion 163
- 4.3 Effects of author information on the generation of author inferences (Experiment 2) 164
 - 4.3.1 Method 165
- 4.4 Results 169
 - 4.4.1 Manipulation check of author prime 170
 - 4.4.2 Affective priming effects and reading times 174
 - 4.4.3 Post-reading measurements 180
- 4.5 Discussion 180

On-line measurement of author inferences through affective priming II 185

- 5.1 Effects of detailed author information on the generation of author inferences (Experiment 3) 187
 - 5.1.1 Method 188
- 5.2 Results 192
 - 5.2.1 Manipulation check of primes and targets 193
 - 5.2.2 Affective priming effects and reading times 198
 - 5.2.3 Post-reading measurements 202
- 5.3 Discussion 207

Looking back and forward 211

- 6.1 Theoretical and methodological implications 212
 - 6.1.1 Generating author inferences 213
 - 6.1.2 Reading fiction as joint pretence 214
 - 6.1.3 Effects of contextual information 216
 - 6.1.4 Effects of more detailed contextual information 217

6.2	Implications for literary studies and discourse theory	219
6.2.1	Literary studies	219
6.2.2	Literary criticism and reviewing	221
6.2.3	Five possible author constructions: an example	221
6.2.4	The fictional aspect of literary texts	225
6.2.5	Discourse theory	227
6.3	After death and resurrection, what next?	230
6.3.1	Reader characteristics in constructing author representations	231
6.3.2	Narrator visibility and foregrounding	231
6.3.3	Methodological difficulties and challenges	234
6.3.4	Author constructions in other art forms	237
	References	241
	Appendices	251
	Index	269