

Title:

Increases and Decreases in Narrativity: The Grey Area Between (Experiential) Narrative and Narrative Report

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One of the limits of narrative is its differentiation from reportage. Returning to the distinction between factual and fictional narratives, the paper will discuss some key issues of narrativity as a definitional conundrum and as a challenge in working with texts that are classified as narratives from a generic point of view, but display atypical features and passages which undermine their full narrativity. Narrativity will hence be treated both as a definitional label (a text is either narrative or instructive or argumentative) and as a graded or scaled concept (more or less, higher or lower narrativity). The latter viewpoint involves a quantitative analysis (how many sentences are 'narrative', how much reporting of actions is there in contrast with description, narratorial commentary or dialogue?). Hence the distinction between narrative as a macro-genre on the one hand and a micro-textual phenomenon (discourse mode) will feature in the analysis and examples discussed.