

## METAFICTION IN CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PROSE: NARRATIVE AND STYLISTIC ASPECTS

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### **Résumé**

This paper focuses on metafictional narrative strategies characteristic of contemporary English-language fiction. The aim of the research is to outline different forms of textual self-reflexivity and liminality, to determine their narrative manifestations, and to uncover their stylistic potential. The theoretical assumptions of the paper are drawn from the bulk of research done on the subject of metafiction and aesthetic illusion, including works by Fludernik, Hanebeck, Hutcheon, Rose, Ryan, Waugh, Wolf, Williams, and others. Methodologically, narrative theories are employed, while the state of aesthetic illusion is considered in terms of immersion and distance. Various effects produced in metafictional narratives are analyzed with regard to linguistic foregrounding. The paper addresses transgressions between

narratives levels, defining the scope and ontological status of narrative metalepsis. Specific framing arrangements and plot structures are viewed with regard to their self-reflexivity. Numerous examples of metafictional commentary are provided to throw light on different levels at which this strategy can function in the text. Metafictional parody and pastiche are shown to have a revisionist potential, as they critically juxtapose narrative patterns characteristic of different genres and cultural eras. The paper also considers metaphors relating to the acts of reading / writing fiction and the participants of these processes. The stylistic effects, among which the most prominent are irony and ambiguity, have been elucidated. The paradoxical effect of authentication, resulting in an engaging storyworld, has been described as particularly resonant for fantasy fiction. The analysis has demonstrated that sophisticated narrative games based on the transgression between narrative levels foreground the act of book-creation and enhance the effect of interconnectivity between the fictional and the real worlds. On the whole, metafictional sensitivity, permeating numerous contemporary texts, advertises fiction and narrativization itself as essential for the human condition and ultimately desirable in terms of its cognitive impact.

**Key words:** fantasy fiction, fictionality, genre, illusion, liminality, magic realism, metafiction, metalepsis, metaphor, narrative strategy, paradox, parody, plot, self-reflexivity.

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