

ICONICITY OF SYNTAX AND NARRATIVE IN AMERINDIAN PROSAIC TEXTS

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Résumé

Iconicity is a term used in semiotics to characterize the relationship of similarity between a sign and the object it represents. In the paper, iconicity is understood as a powerful stylistic device and characteristic of narrative in prose. The paper aims at showing that arrangement of the syntactic and narrative structure of the text iconically resembles the Amerindian worldview materialized in ethnocultural artefacts, symbols, and way of telling. At the level of syntax, the idea is that grammaticalization of syntactic structures serves as an iconic lexico-grammatical variant representing the concept considered to be an ethnocultural symbol or artefact in the Native American philosophy of life. While illustrating how the structure of the

narrative resembles ethnocultural symbols and artefacts, the paper integrates linguocognitive, cognitive cultural and semiotic facets of syntactic and narrative analysis in showing the net of mind and language in highlighting ethnocultural concepts, values, and way of thinking. The paper shows that the structure of language in some way reflects the structure of ethnocultural experience. Based on this idea, it assumes that typological or cross-linguistic study of language structures can tell us about the structure of human cognition. The paper shows analogical relations between the structure of syntax and narrative and their co-work in verbalizing the meaning and form of ethnocultural artefacts and symbols. Text is a set of narratives in which verbal signs imply different information about signified objects. Postmodernist narrative incorporates modes of narration, which at once departs from traditional ways of depicting events. The given research highlights some perspectives how the set of narrative events reflects the way of thinking and world understanding resembling the sense of ethnocultural artefacts, concepts, and sense of ceremonies. The paper grounds that mentality is strictly reflected not only at the level of syntax, but at the narrative level as well.

Keywords: Amerindian prosaic texts, syntax, narrative, syntactic and narrative structure, iconicity, resembling the meaning.

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