New Practicies of Reading, Writing, Cognizing and Thinking in the Era of Internet

Abstract

This paper scrutinizes how Roland Barthes’ notion of Text can be reinterpreted in the Internet era. Barthes’ “From Work to Text” is the main theoretical piece on which the article’s theoretical framework is grounded. Geoff Ryman's 253: or Tube Theatre is taken to serve as the example for Internet hypertext literature, and is examined vis a vis Barthes’ conceptualizations and ideas.

The essay starts with a brief discussion on the nature of Internet literature in relation to that of print literature. This discussion consists of ‘the transition period’ spirit in literature, and the advantages of Internet publishing. The essence of this part is about how traditional paper-based print literature is endangered by online publishing.

After the section on the new literature style come the analysis of Barthes’ “Text” and the application of his theories on 253. In this analysis, Barthes' text is ‘destructed’ into three metaphors: the metaphors of Text as the sea, the network and the game. Analysis of 253 according to Barthes follows the same order as quotations from Barthes.

After the comparative analysis of “From Work to Text” and 253, the paper focuses on the contributions of 253 in the framework of the old questions of literature. These questions include collaborative authorship, Internet readership, self-reflexivity and fundamental authorship.

Keywords: Roland Barthes, Geoff Ryman, textual analysis, internet literature, authorship, new media and communication

*Assistant Professor, Uskudar University, Department of History.
uygar.aydemir@uskdar.edu.tr.
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3972-2380