Abstract

The thesis being presented aims to stress the differences between characters in fictional worlds and characters in storyworlds by means of question of possibilities and limits of reader's inferences. The aims of this thesis is to prove that storyworld construed as a mental model manages to avoid some problems that relate to fictional worlds theories. First chapter provides an insight into the issue of definitions and theories of character and places cognitive approaches to character within it. Since a concept of fictional world and a concept of storyworld are often construed as very alike, in the second chapter, there are two opposed opinions concerning reader's activity during a construction of fictional world; that is theories of Lubomír Doležel and Marie-Laure Ryan. By means of their mutual comparision, the distinctive status of fictional character concerning reader's inferences is being emphasized that further bears a decisive role within theory of Umberto Eco of which a core is presented in chapter three. The link between story comprehension and construction of fictional character is a centre of interest of chapter four, where cognitive approaches are represented by theories by Alan Palmer and David Herman. This chapter presents storyworld and character within it as open and fluid flexible.

Key Words

fictional character, storyworld, fictional world, mental model, gap, inference