

ABSTRACT

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Fictional Worlds in the Works of Jan Erik Vold

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The dissertation deals with fictional worlds in the works of the Norwegian poet Jan Erik Vold (*1939, Oslo), focusing on the years 1965–1995. The work of Vold, a major figure of post-war Scandinavian literature, is approached through the key concepts of the fictional worlds theory as articulated mainly by Ruth Ronen, Lubomír Doležel, Miroslav Červenka, and Elena Semino. The findings of the theory of fictionality (usually employed in the analysis of literary narratives), are applied in an extensive case study of Vold's poetic texts, which contain an exceptional variety of styles and genres ranging from the lyrical, experimental and epic to the socially engaged. The introductory overview of existing literary research on Vold's work is followed by an outline of the theoretical framework used to analyse the fictionality of poetic texts. The rules of fictional discourse are probed in terms of the fictional subjects' perspective (the persona and the subject of the work) in the early works from the years 1965–1970. The forming of fictional universes through Doležel's intensional fiction-world structuring is traced in two collections from the 1970s. The socially engaged works of the late 1980s and 1990s are then read and analysed in terms of the possibility for interaction between actual and fictional domains by applying the cognitive theory of schemes. The dialogue between the fictional worlds theory and Vold's work brings up a number of impulses, which contribute to the existing knowledge about the nature of fictionality by adding research in the broad field of poetic texts. At the same time the variability of Vold's authorial discourse is taken into account and emphasised.