

Abstract

This thesis offers a model for the underlying architecture of the narrative reality in science-fiction works by Philip K. Dick, arguing that Dick's fictional worlds are grounded in the pervasive metamorphosis – the overarching perception of the *shifting* – of the narrative fabric operating under the conditions of *non-rationality* and *non-reality*. The hyphenated coinages conveniently stand for the paradigms of the reality and mental configurations in PKD subverting the seemingly natural dichotomizing oppositions and hierarchies of the real/unreal and the rational/irrational. Bringing in Gilles Deleuze's ontology of *difference*, this thesis explains the non-rationality and non-reality of Dick's worlds in Deleuzian terms as, firstly, inducing the perception of fictional reality as realizing the innate potential of being by the perpetual becoming of being in multiplicity and, secondly, engendering – in the vein of Deleuzian simulacra – the impossibility of apprehending and categorizing fictional reality unequivocally. The thesis considers and evaluates the underlying assumptions and claims common to various approaches to the subject of reality in PKD's fictions in order to provide the essential context for the following development of the theoretical basis for non-rationality and non-reality shifting. Attention is given to the unifying focus of Dick criticism on the logic of contradiction and to laying out the reductivism of the centralizing reality construct as well as commenting on critics' neutralizing of contradiction and ambiguity in PKD. The theoretical conception of shifting reality in Dick's works which is defended in this thesis puts focus on the reality shifting as the broadly conceived effect of the instability of PKD's narrative realities and on the focalization, emerging focalizing perspectives, and multiplicity in PKD, which are contextualized in the philosophy of difference. The practical analysis part of the thesis traces the non-rationality and non-reality shifting in the passages from three Dick's novels, including *We Can Build You*, *Martian Time-Slip*, and *Clans of the Alphane Moon*, illustrating the workings of the non-rationality and non-reality shifting in conjunction with the exegesis of the elements of Dick's style in the selected science fictions, the focus being on their thematic components.