Unnatural Voices: Extreme Narration in Modern and Contemporary Fiction

Brian Richardson

Unnatural voices: extreme narration in modern and contemporary fiction. By. Brian Richardson. Columbus: The Ohio State UP, 2006. xiii + 166 pp. The late Brian Richardson, who passed away in 2014, was a leading scholar in the field of narrative studies. His work, Unnatural Voices: Extreme Narration in Modern and Contemporary Fiction, has been widely recognized for its innovative approach to understanding the complexities of modern and contemporary narratives. In this book, Richardson explores the various ways in which authors construct narratives that go beyond traditional conventions of narration. He examines how these unconventional narratives challenge readers' expectations and push the boundaries of what is considered possible in literature.

The book is structured around a series of case studies, each focusing on a different author and their work. Richardson analyzes texts by authors such as Jorge Luis Borges, Italo Calvino, and Thomas Pynchon, among others. He discusses how these authors use narrative techniques to comment on the nature of reality, the role of the narrator, and the relationship between the storyteller and the story.

Richardson's work is groundbreaking in its reevaluation of traditional narratology, which he terms “unnatural narratology.” He argues that modern and contemporary fiction often employ narrative strategies that are not adequately accounted for by traditional theories of narration. His book has been influential in shaping the direction of contemporary narratological research.

In addition to its academic significance, Unnatural Voices: Extreme Narration in Modern and Contemporary Fiction is also a valuable resource for readers and writers of experimental and postmodern fiction. The book provides insights into the creative possibilities of narrative, encouraging readers to think beyond the limitations of traditional narrative frameworks.

Overall, Unnatural Voices: Extreme Narration in Modern and Contemporary Fiction is a must-read for anyone interested in the evolution of narrative in modern and contemporary literature. It offers a fresh perspective on the ways in which authors challenge and subvert the norms of storytelling, making it an essential addition to the field of narratology.

Brian Richardson was a professor of English at Aarhus University, and his work continues to influence the field of narrative studies. His legacy is evident in the sustained interest in his work and the ongoing debates it has generated among scholars.

For more information about Brian Richardson and his contributions to the field of narratology, visit the Aarhus University website. The website contains resources and links to further reading on Richardson's work and the broader field of narrative studies.

Unnatural Narratives - Projects