

DARIAH Annual Event 2023

Using a specialised thesaurus to analyse literary works

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Research scenario

Conduct a study on the production of short stories in Modern Greek prose from 1880 to 1910.

More specifically, investigate how the work of A. Papadiamantis differs from that of his contemporaries

- drawing upon the **structuralist method of narratology**, and
- examining the **narrative techniques** in the stories under consideration

Research scenario

Features of the Modern Greek short story, 1880-1910

- Creation of national literature - turn towards Greek themes
- The Greek prose of the era is expressed through *ethography* (description of customs, tradition and way of life of the Greek countryside). The Greek version of narrative realism: the *ethographic* short story (short story of manners).

Research scenario



Alexandros Papadiamantis (1851-1911)

Among the most significant Greek writers. Born on the island of Skiathos, he immersed himself in its rich folklore, which heavily influenced his writings. His work, marked by realism, vividly portrays Greek rural and island life.

Papadiamantis represents a unique case in Greek letters and his short stories transcend the programmatic principles of *ethnography*.

Research scenario

The researcher will

- examine the various narrative techniques that will lead to comparative conclusions
- investigate the role of the narrator (who speaks) and perspective in the narrative (who sees), the narrative time (flashbacks, pauses), and the way the speech of the characters is represented,
- categorise the texts based on the narrative genre they belong to, the literary movement they align with, and so forth

Research requirements

- Use a **document repository** with digitised short stories from that period
- Use a **structured vocabulary** of terms relating to narrative techniques and narrative genres to annotate the corpus
- Tool should support **quantitative analysis of annotations**



Challenges

- Existing thesauri of literary terms do not meet the researcher's needs for a **structured**, **consistent** and **extensible** vocabulary
- Relationships between terms should be **explicit**
- Vocabulary structure should be extensible in a **systematic** way



BBT

- BBT (Backbone Thesaurus) is a meta-thesaurus of 10 top level concepts
- The definition of the essential properties of the top-level concepts (facets and hierarchies) enables classification in an **objective** and **consistent** way
- Consistency is imposed from the upper layers to the lower ones, helping to **avoid logical errors** that lead to inconsistencies and **achieve the greatest economy** in the progress of organizing terms.
- Participation in the **BBT thesauri Federation** facilitates **interfacing** with the broader research community



Building the micro-thesaurus

A sample of the corpus of chosen terms:

*narrative time, prolipsis, ellipsis,
in media res, intradiegetic narrator, plot, pause,
focalization, frame story, omniscient narrator,
analipsis, homodiegetic narrator, zero focalization,
point of view, anachronies, anisochronies, etc.*



Some assumptions in narratology

story time \neq narrative time

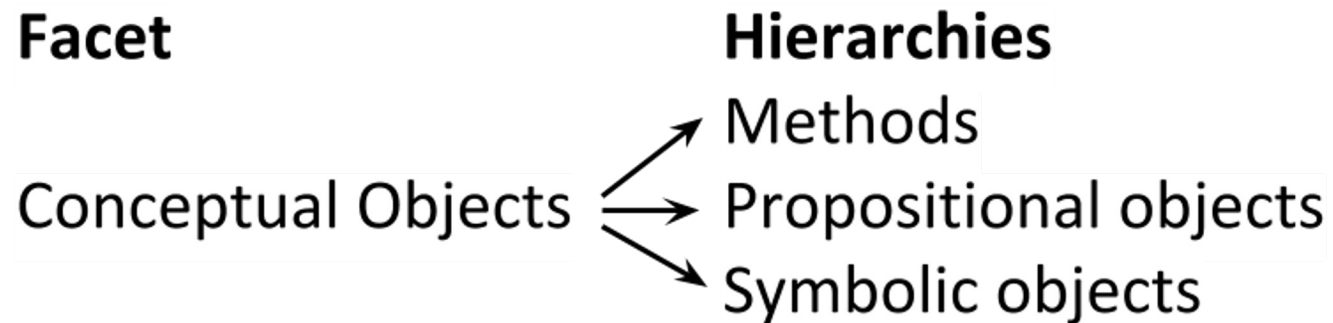
author \neq narrator

narrative voice \neq narrative perspective (focalization)

Building the micro-thesaurus

Step 1: Define provisionally under which facet(s) the majority of the terms should be aligned:

~~Activities, Epochs, Material Objects, Materials, Natural Processes, Groups and Collectivities, Offices~~, **Conceptual Objects**



Building the micro-thesaurus

Step 2: Provide term definitions. A crucial step, since the definition will guide you to the right facet/hierarchy under which you can subsume your terms.



*The definitions of the terms must be **precise** and **coherent** with the definitions of the broader categories*

Step 3: Illustrate the relations between the terms: Broader-narrower term, related term etc


Narrative time - Narrator: Definitions

Narrative time: The succession of the events with the order and the duration that the author **chooses** to represent them in his narrative. The term "**narrative time**" must not be confused with the "**story time**", that is the real chronological order of the events.

Narrator: The narrating agent who transfers verbally to someone else a story. The narrator **does not exist in the real life**, but is part of the fictional world **created** by the **author**. The narrator is the **method** through which the author tells the story to the reader.

Example #1: Methods > Narrative time

Card of Term: Narrative time

modify 

Narrative time

Tra. GR: Αφηγηματικός χρόνος

SN The succession of the events with the order and the duration that at the writer chooses to represent them in his narrative. The term "narrative time" must not be confused with the "story time", that is the real chronological order of the events as it can be concluded from the text.

TT Methods

UF Time of the narrative

BT1 Methods

<by duration>

NT1 Anisochronies

<by order>

NT1 Anachronies

RT Narratology (Method)

Source Aylward 1999

Burroway, Stuckey-French, E., Stuckey-French, N. 2015
pkalafata

Creator: pkalafata

Modifier: pkalafata


Cre.Date: 2017-02-22

Mod.Date: 2017-03-15

Term Status: Under construction

Narrative time > Anachronies

Card of Term: Anachronies

modify 

Anachronies

Tra. GR: Αναχρονίες

SN Types of narration that consist of various forms of discordances between the two temporal orders of the succession of the events in the story and the pseudo-temporal order of their arrangement in the narrative.

TT Methods

BT1 Narrative time

NT1 Analepsis

NT1 Frame narrative

NT1 in media res

NT1 Prolepsis

Source Genette 1972
Genette 1982
pkalafata

Creator: pkalafata

Modifier: pkalafata

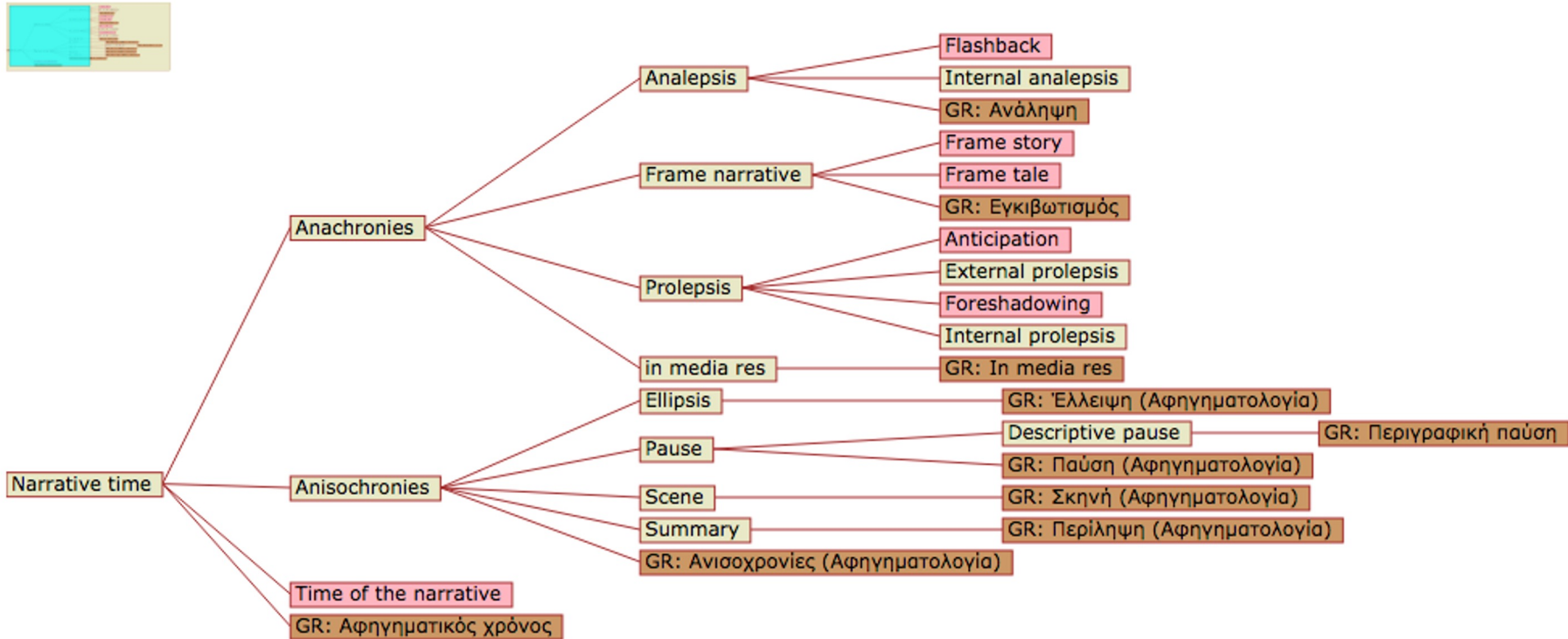
Cre.Date: 2017-02-27

Mod.Date: 2017-03-15

Term Status: Under construction

<Narrative time>: graphical representation

Broader terms of term **Narrative time**: [Narratology \(Method\)](#)



Example #2: Methods > Narrator

Card of Term: Narrator

Narrator

Tra. GR: Αφηγητής
SN The subject, the narrating agent, who transfers verbally –orally or in writing– to someone else a story. The narrator does not exist in the real life, but is part of the fictional world created by the author. The narrator is the method through which the author tells the story to the reader.

TT Methods
BT1 Methods
<by narrative level>

NT1 Extradiegetic narrator
NT1 Intradiegetic narrator
NT1 Metadiegetic narrator
<by the participation in the story>

NT1 Heterodiegetic narrator
NT1 Homodiegetic narrator
RT Narratology (Method)


Source A Lexicon of Literary Terms 2010
Genette 1982
pkalafata

Creator: pkalafata
Modifier: pkalafata
Cre.Date: 2017-02-28
Mod.Date: 2017-03-15
Term Status: Under construction



Narrator>Homodiegetic narrator

Card of Term: Homodiegetic narrator

modify 

close [x]

Homodiegetic narrator

Tra. GR: Ομοδιηγητικός αφηγητής
SN Narrative technique in which the narrator is also present as a character in the story.
SN GR: Αφηγηματικός τρόπος κατά τον οποίο ο αφηγητής (Tra.) συμμετέχει στην ιστορία που αφηγείται είτε ως πρωταγωνιστής (αυτοδιηγητικός) είτε ως παρατηρητής, αυτόπτης μάρτυρας.
TT Methods
BT1 Narrator
NT1 Autodiegetic narrator
RT First person narrative
Source Tziovas 2003
pkalafata

Creator: pkalafata
Modifier: pkalafata
Cre.Date: 2017-02-28
Mod.Date: 2017-03-07
Term Status: Under construction

Narrator > Heterodiegetic narrator

Card of Term: Heterodiegetic narrator

Heterodiegetic narrator

Tra. GR: Ετεροδιηγητικός αφηγητής

SN Narrative technique in which the narrator is not a character in the story, he/she is absent from the narrated world.

TT Methods

BT1 Narrator

NT1 Omniscient narrator

Source Tziovas 2003
pKalafata

Methods > Narrator > Omniscient narrator

Card of Term: Omniscient narrator

Omniscient narrator

Tra. GR: Παντογνώστης αφηγητής

SN Narrative technique in which the narrator knows more than the characters in the plot. He may know the facts about all of the protagonists, as well as their thoughts and gestures. This is a third person narrative form.

TT Methods

UF God-like narrator

BT1 Heterodiegetic narrator

RT Zero focalization

Source Burroway, Stuckey-French, E., Stuckey-French, N. 2015
pkalafata

Creator: pkalafata

Modifier: pkalafata

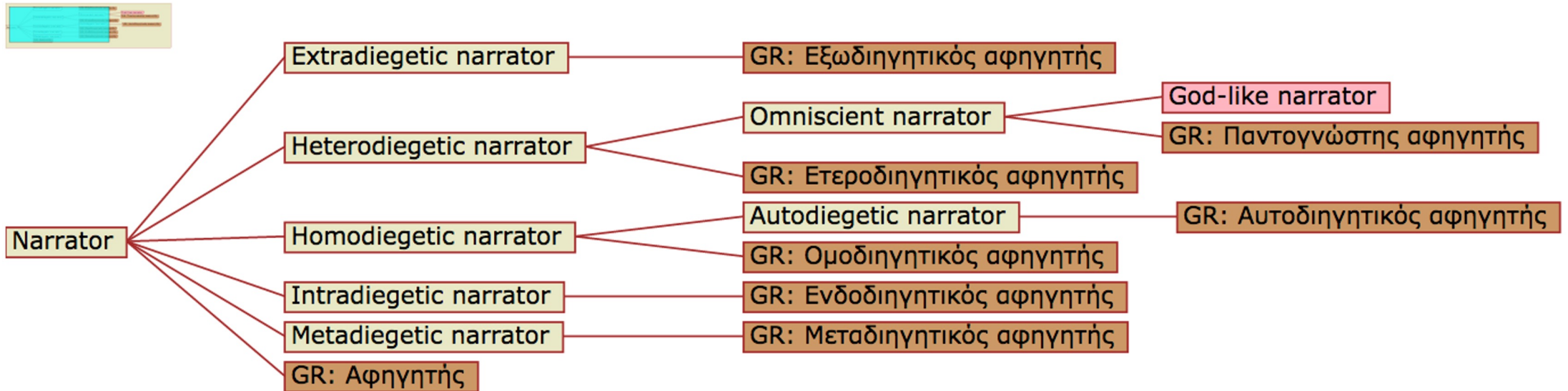
Cre.Date: 2017-03-02

Mod.Date: 2017-03-14

Term Status: Under construction

Narratology > Narrator: graphical representation

Broader terms of term **Narrator**: [Narratology \(Method\)](#)



Example #3 Focalization


DYAS Humanities Thesaurus Content language English

Alphabetical | Hierarchy | **Groups**

- 28 Concepts
- 29 Physical features
- 30 Epochs
- 31 **Methods**
 - 126 Ethnomethodology
 - 147 Thick description
 - 190 Fieldwork (Anthropology)
 - 195 Play within a play
 - 215 **Narratology (Methods)**
 - 365 Narratized speech
 - 385 Focalization (Narratology-Methods)**
 - 774 External focalization
 - 800 Internal focalization
 - 871 Zero focalization
 - 417 Time of the narrative
 - 492 Transposed speech
 - 540 Plot (Narratology-Methods)
 - 542 Narrator
 - 589 Narratee

Methods > Narratology (Methods) > Focalization (Narratology-Methods)

PREFERRED TERM **385 Focalization (Narratology-Methods)**



BROADER CONCEPT [215 Narratology \(Methods\)](#)

NARROWER CONCEPTS
[774 External focalization](#)
[800 Internal focalization](#)
[871 Zero focalization](#)

ENTRY TERMS *Point of view*

SCOPE NOTE
Narrative technique which involves the selection of the point of view through which the narrator "perceives" and "represents" the events. It is the point of view adopted by the narrator.

SOURCE [Aylward 1999](#)

CONTRIBUTOR [Katsiadakis Helen \(AA\)](#)

CREATOR [Kalafata Patrissia \(AA\)](#)

IN OTHER LANGUAGES
[Εστίαση \(Αφηγηματολογία-Μέθοδοι\)](#) Greek
Οπτική γωνία
Αφηγηματική προοπτική

Annotating the corpus

The researcher annotates the digitised texts using a markup tool (e.g. CATMA, OxygenXML)

The screenshot displays the CATMA 6.0.0 interface for editing the text 'THE TELL-TALE HEART-2'. The main window shows the text with various annotations, including a 'Project' pane on the left and a 'Tags' pane on the right. The 'Tags' pane lists various tagsets and tags, such as 'character', 'opponent', 'hero(ine)', 'narrator', 'attitude', 'questionable morals', 'questionable factual claims', 'style', 'address to the reader', 'repetition', 'exclamation', and 'parallelism'. The bottom pane shows the XML markup for the text, including elements like `<xsl:template name="process_footnotes">` and `<xsl:variable name="footnotes" select="//d:footnote"/>`. A context menu is visible over the XML code, offering options like 'Extract local variable', 'Extract global variable', 'Extract template parameter', and 'Extract global parameter'. The interface also shows a 'Project' pane on the left and a 'Tags' pane on the right.

Corpus analysis

Validate previous research:

- Plethoric use of *pause* (descriptive pause) as a narrative technique
- Frequency of heterodiegetic narration and variable focalization

The process can be scaled across a large short-stories corpus in order to study the development of narrative techniques over time and space, how adoption of techniques changes etc.

Thank you!

ΑΚΑΔΗΜΙΑ



ΑΘΗΝΩΝ

Σδυσάς



DARIAH-GR



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