

Bridging the chasm: on literature as language and language as literature

Shelby Hume

Senior Lecturer, Department of Applied Language Studies,
University of South Hertfordshire,
UK

Abstract

Linguistics and literature have long been at the heart of the human condition but are regrettably two domains which often are divided in research. In this paper I will argue that the study of linguistics and the study of literature are two sides of the same coin and should be regarded as such. The foundation for this contention is based on close reading and analysis based on a wide range of textual data. Evidence will be drawn from sources as diverse as the works of William Shakespeare and recent issues of the New York Times, in order to point to the fundamental points of contact and synergy, as well as bifurcation and divergence, in works of literary and non-fictional natures. Through this approach it will be seen that a fundamental bridge between these two domains, often viewed as antithetical, may be created. The findings to be presented in this paper are the outcome of a diachronic study of generic specificity. Implications for the classroom, including possible pedagogical interventions stemming from this approach, will be discussed.

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Biography:

Shelby Hume researches topics at the intersection between literature and language studies. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the International Journal for Applied Language and Literature in Context. She is a Senior Lecturer, Department of Applied Language Studies, University of South Hertfordshire, UK