

Visual poetry in poetical picturebooks

Since modernism picturebook typography and its visual display in cooperation with the image have been used to produce iconotext (Druker 2008; Beckett 2012). Typographical arrangement can for example create the illusion of movement, time and space and sonorous effects (Druker 2008). It can also imitate a still image as is the case in artists' books (Beckett 2012). The use of picturebook typography has parallels to visual poetry (Druker 2008). The connection Druker detects between visual poetry and picturebook text has, however, major focus on the influences on the plot, character and setting, and less on the influences from the poetry-genre.

During the last decades picturebooks with traits that correspond to those defining the genre of poetry have emerged. (Rhedin 2004). The poetical picturebook is characterized by Rhedin as depicting rather than narrating, but her focus is mainly on the picturebook illustration, not on the poetical traits of the text.

The aim of this paper is therefore to explore the influence of poetry in the text of poetical picturebooks and contribute with knowledge about how the use of visual devices in cooperation with the picturebook image creates a poetic iconotext. What influences from poetry in the picturebook text, and particularly from visual poetry, can be found in the material?

This study will be carried out by combining findings by Druker and Beckett with Rhedin's about the poetical traits in picturebooks, but also by adding theories/findings concerning visual aspects of poetry (Olsson 2007; Elleström 2011) and poetry combined with images (Almgren White 2011). Elleström develops a typology for visual iconicity of poetry and distinguishes between visual and auditive material signs, that also will be tested.

The expected result is to show examples of how the figurative language of poetry about instant moments, atmospheres, emotions and mental states contributes visually to create a poetic iconotext.

Primary material

Digman, Kristina (2009). *Floras blommor*. Stockholm: Rabén & Sjögren.

Höglund, Anna (2013). *Om detta talar man endast med kaniner*. Stockholm: Lilla Piratförlaget.

Nilsson Thore, Maria (2015). *Bus och Frö på varsin ö [Elektronisk resurs]*. Bonnier Carlsen.

Tan, Shaun (2006[2001]). *The red tree*. Melbourne, Vic.: Lothian.

Tidholm, Thomas & Tidholm, Anna-Clara (1987). *Resan till Ugri-La-Brek*. Stockholm: Alfabet.

Secondary material

Almgren White, Anette (2011). *Intermedial narration i den fotolyriska bilderboken: Jean Claude Arnault, Katarina Frostenson och Rut Hillarp*. Diss. Växjö: Linnéuniversitetet, 2011.

Beckett, Sandra L. (2012). *Crossover picturebooks: a genre for all ages*. New York, NY: Routledge.

- Druker, Elina (2008). *Modernismens bilder: den moderna bilderboken i Norden*. Diss. Stockholm: Stockholms universitet, 2008
- Elleström, Lars (2011). *Visuell ikonicitet i lyrik: en intermedial och semiotisk undersökning med speciellt fokus på svenskspråkig lyrik från sent 1900-tal*. Hedemora: Gidlund.
- Olsson, Jesper (2005). *Alfabetets användning: konkret poesi och poetisk artefaktion i svenskt 1960-tal*. Diss. Stockholm: Stockholms universitet, 2005.
- Rhedin, Ulla (2004). *Bilderbokens hemligheter*. Stockholm: Alfabet/Anamma.

Biography

Anette Almgren White, is a Senior Lecturer at School of Education and Communication, Jönköping University. She holds a Ph. D in Comparative literature since 2011 and has a special interest in intermedial aspects of literature and children's literature. She has published articles about Astrid Lindgren's works (Ehriander & Nilson 2011; Ehriander & Hellström 2015) and is now in a pilot project about learning practices inside school, namely "Text Universe and cross-boundary Education" together with Senior Lecturer Anette Svensson and licentiate Therese Haglind.

Website: <http://ju.se/en/personinfo.html?sign=almane>