Narrative revisited: telling a story in the age of new (electronic) media

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Contextual constraints in CMC and narrative

Abstract

“How is the narrative impulse shaped by CMC?
How do CMC narratives and prototypical face-to-face spoken narratives differ?
Context in its multifarious components has to be taken into account in order to analyze the different forms CMC can shape; as any communication, CMC is socially constructed and contextually constrained by its structural parameters which differ according to the specific form.
How do contextual constraints affect the various forms of CMC narratives?
To (partially) answer those complex questions, some features will be discussed and exemplified in specific CMC types:

- the peculiar interactive written discourse and its specific socio-emotional features (e.g. phenomena such as emoticons, flaming),
- the presence/absence of a common extralinguistic context with regard to space and/or time,
- the different degrees of common ground and shared knowledge,
- the number and (possible) identification of interactants,
- the timing and length of their exchanges.

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