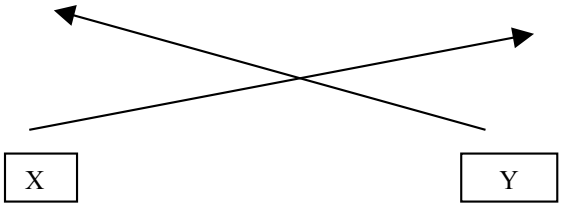
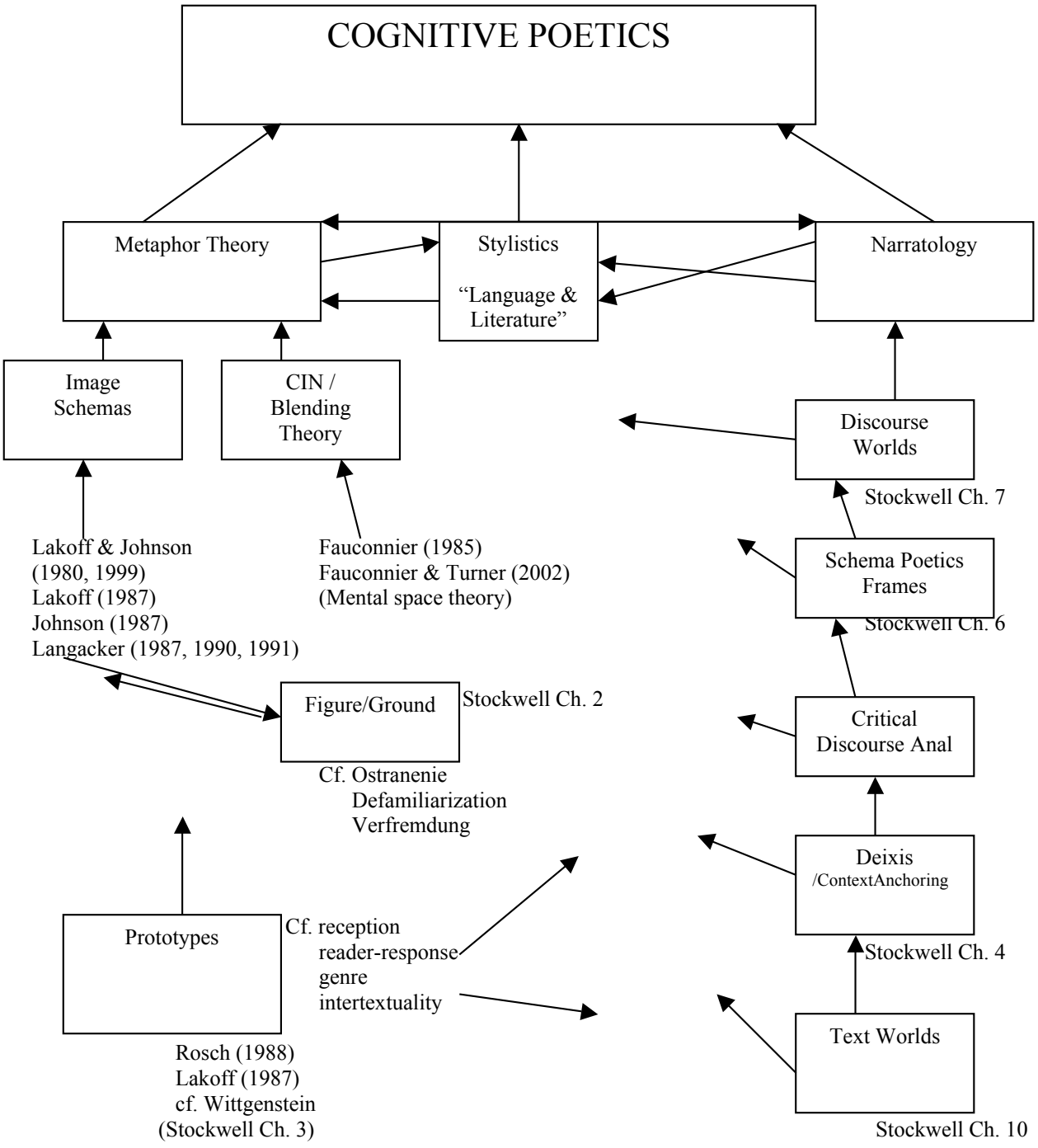
Cognitive Poetics Navigation:





Cognitive Poetics: Where's It Coming from?

Cognitive Poetics

Cognitive Linguistics

Conceptual meaning

Cognitive Semiotics

Cognitive Semantics

Comprehensive meaning

Linguistic meaning

Meaning exists before syntax

Cognitive Pragmatics

Stylistics

Linguistics

Psychology

Literary Studies

Writing technologies

Computer Science / AI

Cognitive Science

Philosophy

Neurology / Neuroscience

Anthropology

Cognitive Stylistics

Discourse Stylistics

Computational Stylistics

Ethical Stylistics

Critical Linguistics/ Critical Discourse Analysis

Expressive Stylistics

Stylistics

Literary Criticism **Linguistics**

Diagram built from Wales, 2001: 372-3

Formalist Stylistics

Practical Stylistics

Functionalist Stylistics

Stylometry

Linguistic Criticism

Text Linguistics

Cognitive Stylistics, a. k. a. *Cognitive Poetics*, a new area of study *within Stylistics*:

Titles reflecting that Cognitive Stylistics/Poetics is now recognized as an area within stylistics:

Semino, E. & Culpeper, J. (eds.) (2002) *Cognitive Stylistics*: *Language and Cognition in Text Analysis*, Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
Stockwell, P. (2002) *Introduction to Cognitive Poetics*, London: Routledge.
Steen, G. & Gavins J. (eds.) (2003) *Introductory Readings in Cognitive Poetics*, London: Routledge.

Cognitive Stylistics has, nevertheless, been developing over (at least) the past ten years. Examples of this type of work can be found in more specialised studies on specific topics, such as:

-Schema theory (e.g. Cook, 1994; Semino, 1997)
-Text world theory (Werth, 1999; Emmott, 1997; Hidalgo-Downing, 2000; Stockwell 2000; Gavins, 2000)
-Metaphor theory (e.g. Freeman, 1993; Steen, 1994; Gibbs 1994; Gibbs & Steen, 1999)
-Foregrounding (van Peer, 1986, Emmott, 2002 a)
-Cognition and emotion (e.g. Miall & Kuiken, 1994; Burke. Forthcoming)

Cognitive Stylistics – Interdisciplinary origins and related areas of study:

-Artificial Intelligence and Psychology (e.g. Schank & Abelson, 1977; Sanford & Garrod, 1981)
-Cognitive Linguistics (e.g. Lakoff & Johnson, 1980; Lakoff & Turner, 1989; Fauconnier 1994, Turner, 1991)
-General Linguistics (other cognitive approaches) and Discourse Studies (e.g. Ariel 1990; Chafe, 1980)
-Earlier Literary Linguistic work on stylistic devices (e.g. Mukarovsk_, 1964)
-Literary Theory (reader response theory and reception theory) (Iser, 1978; Ingarden, 1978; Eco, 1994)
-Cognitive Narratology (e.g. Fludernik 1996; Herman 2002, in press)
-Empirical Study of Literature (e.g. van Peer, 1986; Zwaan, 1993, Làslô, 1999)
-Education: reading research, applied schema theory, developmental psychology, etc. (e.g. Davies, 1994; Cook 1994; McCabe & Peterson, 1991)
-Film Studies (e.g. Anderson, 1996)

(Adapted from Emmott 2002c)

Traditional Stylistics and Cognitive Stylistics

Traditional Stylistics focuses primarily on linguistic features observable in the text (parallelism, lexical patterning, metaphors, etc.) that contribute to the overall meaning of a text.

Cognitive Stylistics look not just at the text, but at the mind's contribution to reading. Traditional topics are augmented by the study of additional topics. For example:

-**Schema Theory** (e.g. Schank &Abelson, 1977) shows how "general" knowledge is needed to make sense of a text; **Text World Theory** (e.g. Werth, 1999) shows how knowledge of characters, places and events, accumulated during our reading of specific texts, is needed to interpret later sentences in the same texts.

-Cognitive Stylisticians explore how certain types of linguistic item (e.g. pronouns) can only be understood using the reader's knowledge, beliefs and inferences (e.g. Semino, 1997, Emmott, in press (b)) Cf. **Cognitive Semantics.**

-Cognitive Stylisticians study the impact of foregrounding devices on readers (e.g. van Peer, 1986; Steen, 1994; Gibbs, 1994). Cf. **Figure & Ground.**

-Cognitive Stylisticians observe (using literary(-linguistic) "reader response " or psychological techniques) the attention that readers pay to the text, the memory that readers have for what they have read and the different interpretations they have. Cf. **Cognitive Deixis.**

-Cognitive Stylisticians examine the cognitive processes involved in understanding the "poetic" features studied by traditional Stylisticians, e.g. Cognitive Linguistic and Cognitive Stylistic research on metaphors and similes. Cf. **Image Schemas; Blending Theory; Conceptual Integration Theory**

(Adapted from Emmott 2002c)

Prepared by Dr. Ulf Cronquist
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