

Unreliable Narration

Preface

The »narratology boom« the humanities have been experiencing for over a decade now has not only given rise to lively programmatic controversies but also to a number of conceptual reconsiderations. Few concepts have attracted the interest of the narratological community as insistently as that of the unreliable narrator, first introduced by Wayne C. Booth in his 1961 book *The Rhetoric of Fiction*. As becomes manifest in a series of papers, monographs, and anthologies, the concept of unreliable narration has, since the late 1990s, turned from a marginal into a central issue of narratological debate. However, this increase of scholarly attention has not settled conceptual questions. On the contrary: after a decade of reconsideration, the concept of unreliable narration seems to be more in need of clarification than ever before. The contributions of the present *JLT* special issue on unreliable narration attempt to prepare the ground for such a clarification from an interdisciplinary point of view. Most of the articles are revised versions of papers presented at the initial meeting of the working group »Foundational Concepts of Narratology« that took place at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies in March 2010.

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