

19. Experimental methods

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Poetic Speech Melody : A Crucial Link Between Music and Language

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Reading Literary Prose and Poetry : Behavioral and Articulatory Differences

Christine Knoop (Max-Planck-Institute for Empirical Aesthetics, Frankfurt, D)

Experimental Investigations Into the Psychology of End Rhyme

The formal properties of end rhyme are well described—its psychological effects in the act of poetry reception, however, remain comparatively poorly understood. In two experiments, we used self-paced reading and speeded rhyme judgments to investigate (a) the effects of end rhyme on reading fluency and memory, as well as (b) factors that influence the acceptability of imperfect rhyme. Our results (a) show how the effects of end rhyme on reading and memory depend on its position within the stanza and on the properties of the entire rhyme schema, and (b) identify a range of factors that increase the acceptability of imperfect rhyme in end rhyme position. Taken together, these findings contribute to our understanding of what rhyme does to the reader and of what the reader considers to be rhyme.

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Reading Literary Prose and Poetry : Behavioral and Articulatory Differences

Cognitive theories of literary genres highlight the importance of readers' genre conceptions for the act of reading. Contrasting literary prose and poetry, we combined eye tracking and speech recordings to examine how readers' genre conceptions affect reading strategies and articulatory parameters during oral reading. We replicated earlier findings that poetry is read more slowly than prose. Our results break this decrease in reading speed down to a number of genre-induced differences in eye movement control and articulation. In their entirety, they sketch a behavioral characterization of the reading strategies associated with cognitive genre schemata. The results will be discussed within a paradigmatic model of literary reading and literary competence, and some considerations will be offered as to what "lyric" might mean within this theoretical framework.