« Notes on – `Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word' – Walter J. Ong. (1982)

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'The Electronic Labyrinth' – Christopher Keep, Tim McLaughlin, Robin Parmar (1993) [http://www3.iath.virginia.edu/elab/]

How does Hypertext and Network writing work?

In a nutshell, hypertext and networked writing seems to be a continuous map of inter-changeable narratives, that when read by each individual, has the ability to change contextually, not only pending on the paths they choose to follow but also on each persons individual interpretation of those paths… Therefore:

Never ending possibilities. No closure. No definitive meaning. No right or wrong way of interpretation = The premise of hypertext and networked writing.

In 'The Electronic Labyrinth' they discuss the notion of placing the development of hypertext in the context of the literary tradition. This highlights many differences between not only between the mediums of traditional print, to computerized text, but also touches on my thoughts above, that the text becomes open to varying reading patterns rather than the traditional linear structure.

In a book of the modern age (ie. in digital hypertext form) the reader becomes the controller of the narrative flow, thus there is no longer one correct direction to follow; meaning that each reader is able to create/take different experiences from the one original text; therefore, they are essentially in control of the storyline. Thus in accordance to Roland Bathes theory "Death of the Author" hypertext allows multiple authors/creators in relation to contextual meaning.

The article also discusses hypertext novels that are created specifically for the computerised world. By constructing works such as these the creator is encouraging readers to investigate their own interpretations on the text – whilst encouraging them to create their own storyline…

TRADITIONAL TEXT | HYPERTEXT:

Close and accept

Linear | Hyper
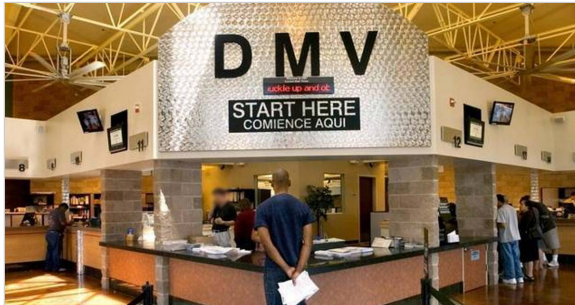
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