

Seminar SAW : History of Science, History of Text

Abstract :

February 20, 2014

Julie Lefebvre (Université de Lorraine, CREM, EA3476)

Last year, we have questioned the notion of « parts of text » through the presentation of Ugo Dionne's works (*La Voie aux chapitres - Poétique de la disposition romanesque*, Seuil, Paris, 2008). We want to continue this inquiry from the view point of a closely related discipline, that is, linguistics. More precisely, we will talk from the point of view of an enunciative linguistics that aims to study the expression of « subjectivity in language » (Benveniste 1966) through the observation of marks of the enunciation's act left in the utterance. We will first make a difference between « naming a part of text » (for example, in a title like « Chapter 1 - XXX ») and « referring to a part of text » (like in « The second chapter aims to... », which can be observed in the text's development). We will also establish a distinction between « referring to the parts of the text held in one's hands » (for example « This section aims to... ») and « referring to the parts of an other text » (for example, « See Dionne 2008, Chapter 2 »). We will then present the questions resulting of the study of a corpus of references to parts of texts « held in hands » extracted from contemporary texts (20th century) belonging to various discursive genres. We will show in particular how these forms in which writers are dealing with their writing as it has to be « shaped as a text » give informations on different enunciative « postures » that can be used in the characterization of discursive genres and singular writings.