

Karin Esmann Knudsen. Abstract in English

An educational Narrative – Aesthetics in Education.

Aesthetics are a matter of a sensuous approach to reality. Aesthetics are also about form. Aesthetics are therefore fundamentally a matter of a kind of intimacy (body, senses, lust) and a distance (the senses have got a formally expression). Aesthetics in teaching are in my opinion an approach which involves both what is well-known, the needs and the every day life of the student, and the foreign world outside the horizon of the students. Quoting Thomas Ziehe, today it is about making school 'artificial', that is, creating an area that acts as a counterbalance to what seems obvious.

This area is organized in a form which I call an educational narrative. It is a construction which makes coherence and also is meant to be fascinating for the students to take part in. As a genuine good narrative. It has to establish some rules that in one hand are obvious for the students and correspond with their way of experience, on the other hand get them exceed their own starting point.

Concrete my point of reference is the education in Danish in the higher classes of the 'folkeskole' (the primary and lower secondary school) and in the 'gymnasium' (=6th form college/high school) and the requirements of teaching texts in a historical context. Today the understanding of connection is challenged by for the fact that the student can have an uneasy feeling by the strange world in the historical reading. It is a task for the teacher to build a bridge between the every day life of the young people and their own aesthetic expression on one side, and the literary/cultural tradition and historical connection on the other.

In my presentation I intend to show a possible way of solving that problem by connecting a youth cultural phenomenon, that is rap music, with different historical manifestations of literature and art. The main term is 'educational narrative', a term for the aesthetic form in which this dialogue is performed across time, place and genre, making an aesthetic coherence that makes an experience for the students and is developing their historical and aesthetic consciousness.