

Christensen, Nina: Children's literature studies on the move. Changing concepts and analytical approaches

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This paper discusses how recent changes in relation to the production of children's literature make it necessary to revise central concepts such as literature, text and media and develop new analytical concepts. Three central tendencies on the book market for children are: An increasing number of digital texts, of audiobooks and of analogue books making very explicit and self-referential use of the codex format.

With this motivation, the paper will discuss the following question: To what extent must the study of children's literature redefine concepts such as literature, text and media in relation to narratives for children in analogue as well as digital formats? The approach will be meta-critical, discussing this question on the basis of central Danish publications on children's literature and culture. Previously, the study of children's literature has had a focus on the written text and fiction within the codex format. Researchers such as Torben Weinreich (Weinreich 2004) and Beth Juncker (Juncker 2006) have discussed children's literature in relation to a dichotomy between education and aesthetics. More recent studies have pointed to the need for an expanded view on literature including (for instance) non-fiction (Skyggebjerg 2011), or focusing on an interaction between aesthetics and education rooted in the *Bildung* tradition (Christensen 2012). Elina Druker has investigated children's literature as a material object in an intermedial perspective (2014).

The paper will open a discussion of the consequences of combining concepts and approaches from media studies (Brügger 2003, Schwebs 2014, Johansen 2014) and literary studies when investigating contemporary texts for children.

References

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