

BOOK REVIEW: ALINA BUZARNA-TIHENEA (GĂLBEAZĂ), *AN EXPLORATION OF LITERARY AND NON-LITERARY TEXTS*, BUCUREȘTI: EDITURA UNIVERSITARĂ, 2025, 370 p.

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The interplay of fictional and non-fictional discourses persistently informs and molds our realities, notably within the realms of communication and culture. This process has been accentuated due to the technological progress that triggered the fast dissemination of information around the world. In *An Exploration of Literary and Non-Literary Texts*, Alina Buzarna-Tihenea addresses fundamental aspects of both types of texts and their corresponding aesthetic and pragmatic worlds, thereby contributing with valuable insights to the research in this area.

Her investigation into the unique features that differentiate literary and non-literary texts offers a fresh perspective while simultaneously clarifying and deepening the understanding of fundamental concepts such as text, literary vs non-literary, informative vs informational, etc. Moreover, the study approaches the interconnections between texts and their cultural, social and historical contexts, underlining the dynamic relationship between discourse and its broader environment.

The five chapters of the book guide readers on an enlightening journey that first traverses the fictional shadows of literary texts, navigating through the intricate labyrinth of definitions focused on *text*, *discourse*, *type* and *genre*, while also disentangling the various approaches to literary texts. Readers are invited to delve deeper into the fictional universe through an exploration of the mainstream features and taxonomies of literary texts, which are frequently presented in tabular form for enhanced clarity and comprehension.

Subsequently, the author leads the readership on a hike through narrative/ prose fiction, that sets off with the endeavor to clarify the meanings of the key concepts of “narrative” and “narrative fiction”/ “prose fiction” considering their scope and applications. The hike into the sinuous landscape of narratives continues with a systematic review of narrative fiction elements – including story, plot, narration, character, conflict, narrator, point of view, setting, subject, theme and tone – providing as clear and detailed as possible a snapshot of the interwoven landscape of narrative threads. The extensive classification of narrative genres (i.e., fantasy, historical fiction, horror, thriller and romance) alongside with their frequently overlapping subgenres are skillfully organized and illustrated in tabular form by the author, thereby

furnishing a comprehensive understanding of the wide array of narratives engendered by human creativity.

Building on its enlightening discussion of non-literary texts, the book proceeds on the pragmatic path to define them and analyze their essential characteristics, with particular attention to objectives, organization, tone and language. Anchored deeply in reality, this nonfictional universe revolves around communication, persuasion, and the spread of knowledge. Through a detailed analysis, Alina Buzarna-Tihenea illustrates how the taxonomies of non-literary texts – shaped by a wide variety of structural, linguistic, functional, thematic and communication particularities – reveal the inherent, deep and tangled interrelations between these texts and human cognition, behavior, knowledge and social life.

The journey then continues into the intellectually rich realm of informational and informative texts, with a careful articulation of the differences between these two notions. In addition, these knowledge and power-granting text types are examined in terms of their defining features – including purposes, structure, tone, style, and targeted audience – as well as their main representatives, thereby enriching the research conducted in this field.

Alina Buzarna-Tihenea's endeavor culminates with an expedition into the thrilling underworld of vampires, consisting of a comparative analysis of literary and non-literary sample texts centered on this age-old and mesmerizing myth. In this regard, excerpts from Anne Rice's *Interview with the Vampire* (1976) and *The Vampire Lestat* (1985), the article on vampires from *Encyclopaedia Britannica online* (Elridge), the newspaper article "Does a wampyr walk in Highgate?" (*Hampstead & Highgate Express*, February 27, 1970), and David Castleton's blog article "The Highgate Vampire – Did a 1970s Nosferatu Stalk a London Cemetery?" (December 9, 2018) are utilized in a thorough and engaging contrastive analysis.

Among the key issues highlighted by the author's exploration are the ways in which textual goals influence organization, content and language and how text type, style, language, readership and various communicative functions intertwine across fictional and non-fictional universes. By examining these literary and non-literary samples centered on a common theme, Alina Buzarna-Tihenea enriches the understanding of how the mechanisms of different text types operate, particularly in terms of structure, purpose, readability, and linguistic characteristics. In addition, this analysis sheds light on the diverse devices of information contextualization, approach and delivery, all in relation to its intended readership.

Overall, the book takes the reader on a captivating journey through the realms of literary and non-literary texts, illustrating how these texts reflect the surrounding world(s) based on their distinct communicative goals – whether

conveying emotions, ideas or attitudes, often via figurative language in the case of literary texts, or providing information, educating or persuading the audience, typically through straightforward language, in their non-literary counterparts. Therefore, Alina Buzarna-Tihenea highlights the innate power of words in both fictional and non-fictional universes, underscoring the importance of language mastery regardless of the whether authors' purposes are aesthetic or pragmatic. Ultimately, *An Exploration of Literary and Non-Literary Texts* furnishes readers with a valuable groundwork for a deeper comprehension of various functions and impacts of text types across a wide array of contexts.