

A Decade of Disruption: The Narratologist View of the Marvel Cinematic Universe



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Supertexts and Narrative Disruption



Proposition:

The three layers of narrative (text, story, and fabula) are more independent, more disrupted, in franchise texts than in “standalone” stories because of the intra-textual influence of canon.

Today's Components



- ❧ Tension between Text and Fabula
- ❧ Individual Texts as Points of View “Characters”
- ❧ Canon as Key Disruptor

Structure of Narratology



Text: “in which an agent...relates (‘tells’ the reader) a story in a particular medium.”

Story: “the content of that text [that] produces a particular manifestation, inflection, and ‘colouring’ of a fabula.”

Fabula: “a series of logically and chronologically related events that are caused or experienced by actors” (5).

■ Mieke Bal. *Narratology: Introduction to the Theory of Narrative* (3rd Ed).

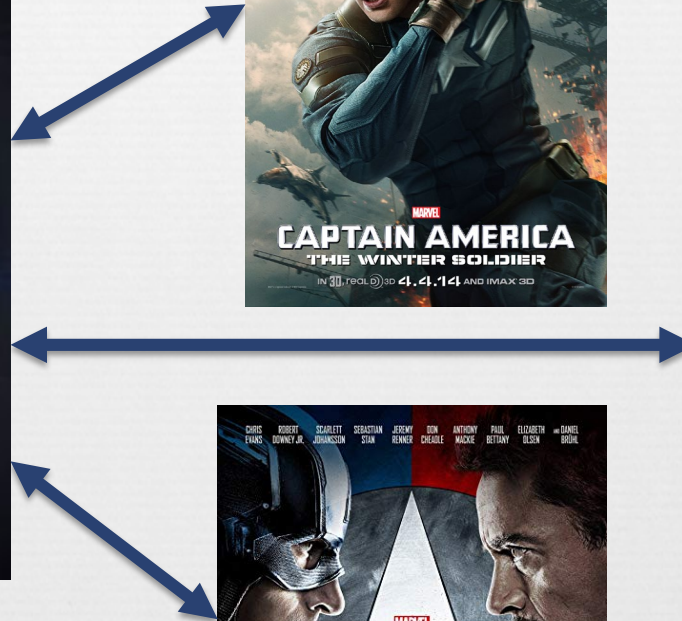
Structure of Narratology



- ∞ Text: Has “a finite nature” and “structure” tied to **Medium** and **Description**
- ∞ Story: **Focalization** (POV) and **Sequence**
- ∞ Fabula: **Actors**, **Events**, **Time**, and **Location**

Mieke Bal. *Narratology: Introduction to the Theory of Narrative* (3rd Ed)

Text-Fabula Tension



Text and Fabula Time



2008



2012



2015



2016



2018



Point of View “Characters”



Point of View “Characters”





Music as Point of View



“She’s not alone....”

Canon



“the events presented in the media source that provide the universe, setting, and characters” of the narrative (10).

- Karen Hellekson and Kristina Busse, *Fan Fiction and Fan Communities in the Age of the Internet*

Canon



Canon





“Someone has been playing an intricate game and has made pawns of us. And once all these pieces are in position...”

“Triple Yahtzee!”



Thank you!



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