

LANGUAGES OF AUTHORSHIP

Abstract

From Cultural Memory Studies, to Geopolitical strands, from Post-colonialism to Distant Reading, from Community Studies to World Literature, from Cosmopolitanism to the World Republic of Letters - recent scholarship has actually failed in understanding the prospect of being an individual writer in the web of a networked collectivity (linguistically, psychologically, politically and philosophically). Without trying to provide an up-to-date definition of authorship, I will swiftly review the often contradictory yet complementary ideas which emerged in recent debates concerning the fate of the Self in a post-industrial, informational, and globalized age.

It is obvious by now that the transition from print to digital culture has affected every aspect of the literary field including its basic concepts like work, author, and reader. Needless to say, the Age of the Internet has, more than once, collapsed, corroborated or overlapped these previously quite distinctive roles. Moreover, readers (or users) can nowadays become co-authors themselves, so that one could argue that a Kuhnian type of shift has occurred.

Consequently, my paper will discuss new methods of production (writing processes and textual structures) and circulation, on the one side, while, on the other, the study will alternatively focus on individual agents involved in literary phenomena (writers, programmers, designers, editors, agents, translators, and publishers) taking into account several recent