

“Sweet Sounds: Synaesthetic Metaphors and Multi-Modal Categorization”

In *Surfaces and Essences*, Douglas Hofstadter and Emmanuel Sander argue that categorization is indispensable to communication, and that analogy is the root of all thought and conceptualization: “...without concepts there can be no thought, and without analogies there can be no concepts.”

In this paper I explore a particular type of metaphor – the synaesthetic metaphor.¹ Using the work of Gabriel García Márquez and Salman Rushdie, I show that synaesthetic metaphors enable multi-modal categorization. I investigate the role of multi-modal categorization in narratology and maintain that its effects are not unlike those of metalepses: negotiating several sensory modes is similar to traversing narrative levels.

¹ For the purposes of this paper I will use analogy and metaphor interchangeably.