

Contents

Acknowledgments | 7

Introduction | 9

I. THE FOLKLORE OF EPILEPSY

- I.A Falling Asleep: The Stigma of Epilepsy in History | 21
- I.B American Literature: From Stigma to Metaphor? | 39
- I.C Ableist Metaphor: Historical Motifs and Normalcy | 55

II. LIMINAL SPACES OF INDIVIDUATION

- II.A Jürgen Link and Michel Foucault: Symptomatic
Signification of Proto- and Flexmetaphors | 69
- II.B George Canguilhem: Vital Materiality and
Relational Metaphors | 81
- II.C Gilbert Simondon: Transindividual Metastability and
Conceptual Metaphors | 95

III. EPILEPSY METAPHORS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE (1990-2015)

III.A Metaphor and Society: Proto- and Flexmetaphors and Calculated Individuation

III.A.1	Lauren Slater's <i>Lying</i> : The <i>Epileptic</i> Text I (Ellipse & Ellipsis)	115
III.A.2	Audrey Niffenegger's <i>The Time Traveler's Wife</i> : From Flexmetaphor to Protometaphor	131
III.A.3	Dennis Mahagin's <i>Grand Mal</i> : The <i>Epileptic</i> Text II (Cosine & Enjambment)	143

III.B Metaphor and Materiality: The Relational Body and Its Electric Individuation

III.B.1	Thom Jones' <i>The Pugilist at Rest</i> : Epilepsy as Compassion	157
III.B.2	Rodman Philbrick's <i>The Last Book in the Universe</i> : Epilepsy as Archive	169
III.B.3	Reif Larsen's <i>I Am Radar</i> : Epilepsy as Communication	181

III.C Metaphor and Idioms: Siri Hustvedt's Metastable Rhetoric as Transindividuation

III.C.1	<i>The Blindfold</i> : Falling as Fragility	191
III.C.2	<i>The Enchantment of Lily Dahl</i> : Shaking as Vulnerability	209
III.C.3	<i>The Summer Without Men</i> : Em Dash as Endurance	221

Conclusion	235
-------------------	-----

Bibliography	239
---------------------	-----