

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments | 9

1.) Introduction: Contemporary American (Literary) Studies, the Spatial Turn and Narrativity | 11

- 1.1) The Significance of Space in American Studies | 25
- 1.2) Spatial Narrativity and U.S.-American (Literary and Cultural) Studies: Overview and Desideratum | 30
- 1.3) Theoretical Remarks: Space as Part of the Historical Narrative | 42
- 1.4) Undisclosed Sit(d)es: Redirecting Scholarly Attention Towards Space | 47
- 1.5) Foucault's Heterotopias and Historicized Space | 52
- 1.6) The Intersection of Space and Time: Locating Spatial Narrativity | 57

2.) Key Tropes of Space in U.S.-American Cultural History | 61

- 2.1) The City upon a Hill: Puritan Spatial Thought and the Beginnings of American Exceptionalism | 65
- 2.2) The American Revolution – The Modern Nation State as Spatial Entity | 69
- 2.3) 19th-Century American Expansionism: On the Symbiosis of Space, Politics and Ideology | 73
- 2.4) Transition, Redefinition and Relocation: The Early 20th Century as an Example of Spatial Transformation | 81
- 2.5) America in the Second Half of the 20th Century: The Spatial Qualities and Metaphorics of Foreign Policy in the Light of Confrontation and War | 84

3.) Literary Tradition: Space in Earlier Periods of U.S.-American Literature | 93

4.) Re-Thinking Narrative Theory for Contemporary Literature | 105

- 4.1) Narrative, History, and the Significance of Textuality | 111
- 4.2) “The Long and Winding Road”:
A Basic Taxonomy of Spatially-Induced Narratives | 114
- 4.3) Outsourcing Space: Towards a Spatial Perspective
of Narrative | 119
- 4.4) Narrative Concepts, Categories and their Spatial
Qualities: Narrative and Diegesis | 121
- 4.5) Theorizing Levels and Dimensions of Narrative Space | 126
- 4.6) Narrative Heterotopias | 132

5.) Jonathan Franzen – *The Corrections* | 139

- 5.1) St. Jude as Place and Space: A Pessimistic
Representation of the American Midwest | 139
- 5.2) St. Jude as the Other: Gary Lambert’s Perception
of his Hometown | 141
- 5.3) One Last Christmas: St. Jude’s Significance
as Contact Zone | 144
- 5.4) Re-Spatializing St. Jude: WASP America and
the Narrative of Failure | 146
- 5.5) St. Jude’s Idyll: Space and Spatiality in Alfred Lambert’s
Recollection of the American Midwest | 149
- 5.6) St. Jude and the Burdens of Family Life | 154
- 5.7) A Simultaneous Collision of Spaces:
The Narrative Heterotopia in *The Corrections* | 159
- 5.8) Reconfiguring St. Jude:
Coming to Terms with *The Corrections* | 168
- 5.9) Corrected Spaces: A Reevaluation of St. Jude | 173

6.) Toni Morrison’s African American History Trilogy | 179

- 6.1) Sweet Home vs. 124 Bluestone Road:
Spatial Constructs and Imagery in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved* | 179
- 6.2) The Urban vs. the Rural: The Role of the City
in the Construction of African American
Biographies in *Jazz* | 196
- 6.3) *Paradise*: The Representation of an Attempt
at Creating African American Spatiality | 208

7.) Luis Alberto Urrea – *Into the Beautiful North* | 227

- 7.1) Spatial Contrasts in Urrea’s *Into the Beautiful North*:
Tres Camarones and Imaginaries of “Los Yunaites” | 227
- 7.2) Tijuana and the Border: A Representation of the Borderlands | 243

- 7.3) Across the Border: *Into the Beautiful North* as a Narrative of Empowerment | 254
- 7.4) Bringing it all Back Home: The Representation of Tres Camarones Vis-à-Vis “Los Yunaite” and Nayeli’s Search for her Father | 258

8.) Sherman Alexie – *Reservation Blues* | 269

- 8.1) Coming Full Circle: Sherman Alexie’s *Reservation Blues* and the Spatiality of Tragedy and Failure | 269
- 8.2) Narrating Enclaves: The Reservation as Space of Isolation and Despair | 274
- 8.3) “Coyote Springs”: The Journey as a Representation of Overlapping Spaces | 288
- 8.4) Narrativizing the Reservation Blues: The Cultural Emancipation of Thomas and Chess | 299

9.) Conclusion | 307

Works Cited | 317

- a) Literary Works and Other Primary Sources | 317
- b) Secondary Material | 318

