Silence and sound in the sentences of Gerald Murnane's A Million Windows
Abstract

This article develops a reading of Gerald Murnane’s 2014 novel A Million Windows, focusing on the manner in which the novel interrogates the nature of meaning making in fiction. It looks at the paired ideas of sound and silence: the former producing sense through sentences proper to the sense they need to convey; the latter impressing itself as what needs to be understood.

Keywords

Gerald Murnane

Full Text:
PDF

Refbacks

There are currently no refbacks.

Gerald Murnane has been, for some forty years, trying to describe his life through fiction. After ‘giving up’ publishing in 1995, he began again with the novel Barley Patch in 2009, and later came to write a work called A History of Books (2012), followed by his latest novel A Million Windows (2014). Critical response to Murnane’s earlier fiction (before his break) often positioned him within the tradition of post-modern literary theory, particularly deconstructionist accounts of language. Silence and Sound in the Sentences of Gerald Murnane’s A Million Windows. In his 1986 essay ‘Why I write what I write’, Gerald Murnane underlines the importance of sound to his writing, and in particular the sound of sentences. “The Sound Of Silence” was released in October 1964 as an acoustic ballad recorded by Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel. The song was the lead single from their debut album “Wednesday Morning, 3 A.M.” At first, the album and “The Sound Of Silence” were a commercial disaster (sold less than 2000 copies) and the duo were starting to break apart. I saw him as a major guy whose work I didn’t want to imitate in the least.” In another interview, Paul explained: "We have people unable to touch other people, unable to love other people. "The Sound Of Silence" is about the inability to communicate." "The Sound Of Silence" is one of the most successful songs of all time. Gerald Murnane (born 25 February 1939) is an Australian writer, perhaps best known for his novel The Plains (1982). The New York Times, in a big feature published on 27 March 2018, called him “the greatest living English-language writer most people have never heard of”. Murnane was born in Coburg, Victoria, a suburb of Melbourne, and has almost never left the state of Victoria. He is one of four children—one of whom, a brother, suffered an intellectual disability, was repeatedly hospitalised and died.