

Title to be confirmed

Narrative development, resolution and closure in hypertext fiction have been well covered in research. The way that hypertext linking arrangements may predispose readers towards certain readings has also been well documented. A further body of online reading research suggests that cognitive effort involved in navigating fictional hypertext can be reflected in the pattern of lexical choices made by readers. In each case, what appears constant is that readers, when reading hypertext, must expend cognitive effort in deciding how best to proceed with the text, often with little knowledge of how an action will affect the outcome. Research into this latter aspect is steadily growing, though somewhat limited by the range of hyperfiction, which has always been small compared to printed, published material. Since there are many more conventionally published literary texts than hypertext ones, it would make sense to hypertextualise existing printed literary material for the purposes of analysing the choices made by readers. However, to hypertextualise a linear text into non-linear format requires both a rationale for selecting which elements to treat as links and a method for structuring those links into a meaningful network that (ideally) preserves the essential discourse features of the original. Many models exist. Since my interest here is in how the choices made by readers can be used to test the observations and interpretations of a text by critics, I propose to demonstrate how critical commentaries can form a basis for encoding such texts by providing focal points for hypertext links. As an example, I show how I have been able to use commentaries referring to significant aspects of James Joyce's short story 'Eveline' (such as plot development and characterisation) as the basis for encoding. As readers navigate the text, their selections closely follow critical commentaries and provide additional perspectives on the literary text.

300 words