Writing an Abstract

What is an abstract?

An abstract is a short, concise summary included at the beginning of a research paper. It is approximately 150-250 words in length and briefly highlights all of the components of a piece of research, such as purpose and findings. Abstracts are often, though not always, followed by a list of keywords.

Components

Abstract

Children's picture books provide a genre in which language and imagery interact. Creators in this genre may use these interactions to (un)consciously communicate ideologies about the world. This study focuses on the children's picture book *Where the Wild Things Are* (1963) by Maurice Sendak in order to investigate how Sendak presents environmental ideologies to young readers, specifically that of human dominance over the natural world. This study employs a Critical Multimodal Analysis (CMA) approach, analyzing linguistic and visual modes through an ecocritical lens presented by ecocritics Bruno Latour and Michel Serres on the relationship and power dynamic between humanity and the natural world. Sendak communicates an ideology of human dominance over the natural world using both linguistic and visual elements in relay with each other. By applying a critical approach to beloved texts, researchers do not vilify them but rather uncover the (sub)conscious ideologies they communicate to the youngest and most susceptible portion of the population.

Key words: Critical Discourse Analysis, child psychology, ecocriticism, Multimodal Discourse Analysis, picture books

Purpose

• Why is this research important? Why should the audience care about it?

Problem

• What problem does this research attempt to solve? Is it filling a gap in existing research? What is your thesis, argument, or hypothesis?

Methodology

• What methods, approaches, or evidence did you use to address the problem, investigate the claim, or prove/disprove the hypothesis?

Results

• What were your findings? Was there any statistical data, or is the data of a more qualitative nature?

Discussion & Implications

• How should the audience interpret these findings? How does this research contribute to the overall body of knowledge in your field? What should future research consider?