NARRATIVES

- telling of a sequence of connected events
- relation between the events
- beginning and ending, a point, a purpose

Narratology – what all narratives have in common

-distinction between what happened and how it is told (V. Schklovsky):

story	*narration*
fabule	syžet

- question of ordering events (e.g. flashback)
- making sense of events

Narratives always told by someone – ***narrator*** not the same as author – a fictional construction, a "voice" – has a point of view

Narratives are typically about a ***change***:

situation A	changes into	situation B
lack	leads to	restoration

ignorance	wisdom
innocence	experience

unity and coherence – closure, "tying up" the narrative

narratives often "bracketed" or "framed" – *orientation* and *coda*

Building blocks of narratives – basic components (types of characters and types of events, types of lack and restoration, ways of getting the narrative from beginning to the end)

William Labov:

1. abstract: what, in a nutshell, is the story about?
2. orientation: who, when, where, what?
3. complicating action: then what happened?
4. evaluation: so what, how is this interesting?
5. result or resolution: what finally happened?
6. coda: bridging back to the present

Vladimir Propp: Morphology of a Folk Tale (1928)

32 situations

Charaters

Individuals involved in the described events, associated with a particular *role*, often repeated from story to story (detective, princess, the monster, the town drunk) and *function* in the narrative

Propp: 7 functions (adversary, donor, helper, czar, his daughter, sender, hero, false hero)

Types of characters:

Positive/negative

Main/minor

Flat/round   (E.M. Forster: Aspects of the Novel)