

Linguistics / Literature & Literary Studies

The Quality of Literature

Linguistic studies in literary evaluation

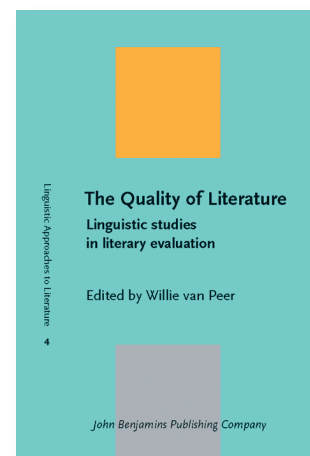
Edited by Willie van Peer

Ludwig Maximilian University

Evaluation is central to literary studies and has led to an impressive list of publications on the status and history of the canon. Yet it is remarkable how little attention has been given to the role of textual properties in evaluative processes. Most of the chapters in *The Quality of Literature* redress this issue by dealing with texts or genres ranging from classical antiquity, via Renaissance to twentieth century. They provide a rich textual and historical panorama of how critical debate over literary quality has influenced our modes of thinking and feeling about literature, and how they continue to shape the current literary landscape. Four theoretical chapters reflect on the general state of literary evaluation while the introduction weaves the different threads together aiming at further conceptual clarification. This book thus contributes to a deeper understanding of the problems that are at the heart of past and present debates over literary quality.

[*Linguistic Approaches to Literature*, 4] 2008. ix, 243 pp.

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"This is an excellent volume, of an academic and intellectual standard that should be attractive to any university press in the English-speaking world... The book is likely to be highly controversial precisely because it goes against the grain of Anglophone literary study of the past quarter-century. This controversy is precisely what is needed in the field and has been needed for many years."

Prof. Donald Freeman

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