Fisher, Walter R. "Clarifying the Narrative Paradigm."

Article:


Executive Summary: This essay talks about the Narrative Paradigm and to clarify Fisher’s position on this theory of evaluating a piece of literature. This piece was in response to a Professor Rowland essay. (whoever he is?) Fisher says that instead of a counter attack he will explain Narrative Paradigm once again. In order to explain the Narrative Paradigm Fisher will use the “Afterword” from Human Communication as Narration. In the “Afterword” Fisher presents seven points that say what Narrative Paradigm isn’t and then is. In the second to last paragraph of the article he finally gives an overarching definition of narrative paradigm as being a philosophical statement that is meant to offer an approach in interpretation and assessment of human communication.

Outline of Article

I. He points Professor Rowland to read his preface and to the introduction chapter seven on how to use the narrative paradigm, in order that he might understand Fisher’s purpose.

II. He presents three sense of narration that he has in the form of narration 1, narration 2, and narration 3.

   A. Narration 1: individuated form such as depiction, anecdote, and characterization.

   B. Narration 2: generic forms such as argumentation and narration.

   C. Narration 3: a conceptual framework for understanding human decision, discourse, and action.

III. “He says first “it is not a rhetoric.” He says that it is the foundation on which a rhetoric should be based on.”
IV. 2nd Fisher says it “is not about criticism.” But does concern the interpretation and assessment of rhetorical messages.

V. 3rd Fisher claims that “narrative paradigm isn’t a celebration of narration as a individuated form.” But it “celebrates human beings and it does this by reaffirming their nature as storytellers.”

VI. 4th Fisher writes that “narrative paradigm does not deny the utility of traditional genres.” Instead that no matter the genre discourse will always tell a story.

VII. 5th He writes that this theory does not claim that certain communication can only be seen serving rhetorical purposes. But instead it becomes relevant: to ascertain the meaning and merit of communication as the basis of decision and performance.

VIII. 6th He claims that narrative paradigm is not a rejection of the tradition of argumentation. But rather that it is a rejection of the specific notion that reason only appears when it takes an individuated forms of inference or implication.

IX. 7th He finally states that it doesn’t deny that power, ideology, distortion, totalitarian forces can be significant features of communication practices. But that regardless of these issues presence ecision and action are inevitable, and that they always appear in the context of a story.

X. The final definition of narrative paradigm is a philosophical statement that is meant to offer an approach in interpretation and assessment of human communication.