

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE STORYBOOK IMAGINARY

Ferenc Fodor, PhD, Researcher
EDF R&D, CERI Sciences Po
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Climate change's representations

- An ancient concern which has become a major modern-day political and societal issue
- A change in priorities since a few years (environmental > social)
- But a long history of the social discursive imaginary concerning climate-related issues
- Comets, calamities, catastrophes

Fiction through which to interpret the world

- Fiction: an imaginary construction of the world
- Imaginary nature of the narrative and imaginary status of the referent
- Literature allows us to represent ourselves and to interpret the world in which we live
- Scientific or religious explanations: cultural resources

The evolution in children's literature

- Emergence of the environmental theme
- The particular problem of making the younger generation aware of long-term global problems
- How does this literature present the world we live in and how does it see the future from the standpoint of climate change?
- Can or must this literature help to give birth to a new generation, with new mind-sets, who will become prescribers of new ways of living and of consuming, in an attempt to “save the world” from the irresponsibility of adults?

The vision of worlds which have undergone climate change in children's literature

- The federating elements are the notion of rising sea levels and that of extreme weather phenomena which can be put down to climate change caused by human beings
- Strong convergence in themes might be interpreted as the influence of dominant western representations of the consequences of climate change

Emile's travels in 2065: the future is not carved in stone

- Jean-Michel, Payet, *2065 La ville engloutie* (The drowned city), Paris, Milan Jeunesse, 2010 and the second adventure, *2065 Les pilleurs d'eau* (The water pillagers), Jean-Michel, Payet, Paris, Milan Jeunesse, 2010.
- The hero: an ordinary boy searching for his identity
- His journey into the future

France in 2065: tsunamis and land swallowed up by the ocean

- 55 years separate the two situational contexts
- The weather is no longer the same as at the beginning of the century, it is far hotter
- “The village of yesteryear”
- Emile’s town has been swallowed up by the ocean
- Emile is faced with the effects of global warming
- The 2065 town seems to be more ecological than it was at the beginning of the century
- Making young readers aware and accountable
- Drought as a possible consequence of climate change

Two dysphoric visions of the future

- Jean-Pierre Andrevon, *Marée descendante* (Falling tide), and *La Dernière Pluie* (The last rain), in *Demain La Terre*, Paris, Mango, 2003
- The fear of land being swallowed up due to climate changes
- Our past and present actions directly linked to the future climate
- The climate Apocalypse: the beginning of a renewal
- Tensions between responsibility and a feeling of guilt

Conclusion

- A predominance of dystopia
- Consequences of Climate change attract the greatest attention
- Narrative construction is oriented towards capturing attention and emotional involvement
- The narrative device is relatively simple
- Indication of an ongoing dynamic in representations
- Ethical responsibility
- Necessity of invention of new utopias