

SPATIAL MODELING TECHNIQUES IN DAVID FOSTER WALLACE'S SHORT STORIES

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The dissertation begins with a review of the most important theoretical tools and concepts employed in the subsequent analyses – Boris Uspenskii's typology of narrative planes, Janusz Sławiński's observations on the stages of construing fictional space and Yuri Lotman's theories of space and the semiosphere. The introduction also includes a brief mention of Google Street View technology that was used in the dissertation to present pictures of fictional equivalents of existing places mentioned in David Foster Wallace's short fiction. The introduction ends with a biographical sketch presenting the author's literary achievement and fields of interest that seem to have had a considerable influence on the analyzed works.

The vast majority of Wallace's short stories are set in urban space, divided into functional zones. Chapter 1 discusses workspace and downtowns, with particular emphasis put on the notion of boundary (*sensu* Lotman). Chapter 2 focuses on construing domestic and leisure space as well as the space of roads connecting the functional zones. Apart from boundaries, Chapter 2 devotes special attention to techniques disrupting narrative logic, used to create the image of a trap-world on the brink of destruction. Chapter 3 concentrates on the space of book as a physical object and multimodal narrative techniques employed by the author.

Key words: semiotics, narratology, David Foster Wallace, space, USA, postmodernism, post-postmodernism, short story