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„From literature to cognition and back: a cognitive linguistic approach to the language of creative writing and the resources of the mind”

Through the analysis of examples taken from a selection of works by Malcolm Bradbury, Saul Bellow, Norman Mailer, Bernard Malamud, John Updike and E.E. Cummings, this essay explores the mental processes underlying the creation of literary discourse production from a cognitive linguistic perspective. It investigates how cases of metaphoric meaning construction, categorial formation, and the uses of blending, compression and conceptual integration help these writers to construct possible or alternative worlds of fiction, interpret and reshape common areas of experience, as well as address individual conflicts and redefine identities, by re-examining and re-categorizing emotions and social roles.