Momentary Stays, Exploding Forces: A Cognitive Linguistic Approach to the Poetics of Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost

by Professor Margaret H. Freeman
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Tuesday, 30 April 2013, 5.15 p.m., HS 7, Humanities Tower

In this talk, Prof. Freeman explores how cognitive poetics can help to identify and articulate a poet’s poetics and thus contribute to an explanatory account that distinguishes one poet’s poetics from another. She has chosen as examples the poetry of Robert Frost and Emily Dickinson because the former is considered to have a very clear poetics and the latter not. She shows that in fact Dickinson does have a clearly defined if subtle poetics and that it is very different from Frost's. First she outlines Frost's and Dickinson's theories of poetry with some examples and then compares several poems that reveal the distinction between their poetics.

Margaret H. Freeman is Emeritus Professor of English from the Los Angeles Valley College and Co-director of the Myrifield Institute for Cognition and the Arts in Heath, MA, U.S.A. Her research interests lie in the interdisciplinary fields of the cognitive sciences, especially literature, poetics, linguistics, and philosophy. She is currently working in cognitive aesthetics, with special focus on developing a theory of poetic iconicity. She was the first president of the Emily Dickinson International Society.

Looking forward to welcoming you to this event!

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gudrun Grabher
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