

IS1404 E-READ: Evolution of Reading in the Age of Digitization

Position paper

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WG(s): **WG 3**

1 A: My contribution to WG3 from previous research:

1/ Research project “Reading Fiction in the Internet Society: the function of literature in the personal development and social orientation of young adults”, financed by the Swedish Research Council for three years, 2011-2013. Background is the drop back in PISA-results on one hand, aims and goals of the Swedish National Education Act and Curricula on Swedish language and literature to support ‘personal development and social orientation’ on the other. This project is an investigation of 16-25 year-old students’ experiences of and attitudes toward reading fiction in printed books vs uses of fiction in other media or formats. Theories used are derivable to IGEL; quantitative and qualitative methods are used, i.e. questionnaires, focus-group interviews and personal interviews. Data-collection has also included reactions on short-stories focusing personal development and social orientation.

2/ Research project ‘The case of the e-book in a "small language" culture: Media, technology and effects in the digital society’, is financed by the Swedish Research Council for four years, 2013-2016. The Swedish context in being a ‘small language’ in a global, Anglo-Saxon book industry and market raise questions to what might be the effects of the e-book phenomenon within the national book. The theoretical framework includes a focus on: the emergence of the innovation out of previous prototypes, the existence of a ‘supervening social necessity’, and the impact of means for the suppression of ‘radical potential’ (Winston). In addition Bourdieu’s field theory will be used to analyzing changes in power between the actors in the field. The research methods include personal interviews with authors, publishing executives and booksellers, focus group interviews with librarians and readers and questions in national surveys of the population.

3/ Research project IGEL North aims to investigate how students’ in language and literature teaching programs reflect upon experiences of reading literature, and if ‘deep reading’ is practiced in their reactions from reading literature. Data-collection is based on methods used by IGEL. All Nordic countries except from Iceland are represented in this project. Analysis will be processed two-ways: within each country and between participating countries in comparison. The project is financed for two years, 2013-2015, by the Joint Committee for Nordic Research Councils in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NOS-HS).

My contribution to WG3 will be based on my experiences of inter-disciplinary research and I will bring this knowledge and experience from these research projects into COST Action E-READ. In addition, I have long time experience of assessing ethics in research from being a member of the Board of ethics in research in Gothenburg 2006-2013.

B. My contribution to WG3 will be linked to objectives 3-5: “... to prompt systematic, empirical, interdisciplinary research ... to facilitate joint scientific publications and new, radically interdisciplinary research projects... to establish long-term theoretically and methodologically innovative research collaboration.”

2 A/ YES, interest in participating in a short-term scientific mission (STSM).

2 B/ YES, interest in participating in theoretical and methodological Training School/s linked to WG3 and objectives 3-5.