BM1, SoSe 2010, ASSIGNMENT 3 – Analysing Fiction

Please make sure to submit your assignment stapled together and with punch holes on the left, but not bound in any kind of folder or wrapping. Every assignment must include a "title-page" and the statement on plagiarism.

Analyse the following passage from Herman Melville's "Benito Cereno":

"What, pray, was Atufal's offense, Don Benito? […] from contagion" (Melville 51)

[NOTE: The text is specified according to the Norton edition of 2002, edited by Dan McCall.]

Please analyse this text, addressing the following tasks and questions. Refer to the categories presented on the narratology handout. You may write up to *three* pages of text, according to the formatting specifications of our style sheet. Any text beyond the first three pages will be ignored. Also, there will be a deduction of at least 10% if your paper does not conform to the style sheet.

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1. **Focalisation and Narration (30 points)**

   (a) Identify and categorise the narrator according to the typology of narrators (i.e. to the narrative level, the extent of participation, the degree of perceptibility and the question of reliability).

   (b) Identify the focaliser(s) and comment on the shifts in focalisation in the given passage. What effects result from these shifts?

2. **Characterisation (40 points)**

   Applying the different techniques of characterisation, what do you find out about:

   (a) Delano?
   (b) Benito Cereno?
   (c) Babo?

   On this basis:

   (d) Comment on the relationship between the characters and support your statement with your findings on narration and focalisation.

3. **Wider Context (30 points)**

   (a) Name **one other passage** in the novel which corresponds or contrasts with this passage in **one particular aspect**.

   (b) Describe the nature and significance of the correspondence or contrast.

   (c) Relate both passages to one of the central themes of the novel.