

entire text and often, through the themes explored, the constructed nature of our own reality. Thus, the postmodern fantastic is best seen as the overlap between two different literary modes which creates a particular and specific synthesis where the hesitation provoked by the fantastic event does not simply question the reality of the narrative but rather creates a hesitation between this world and the next, i.e. the entire ontological status of the text (McHale 1987/1989). What must be stressed here is that the greater parts of the novels are actually quite realistic in their form, such as in the detailed characterisation. The general attention to detail thus fulfils realism's 'reality-effect'. The postmodern frame-breaking thus derives from the fantastic elements in the text, which are used to question literary conventions in a different manner than the pure fantastic.

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