



The Future of Cultural Studies and the Humanities

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Abstract

The current paper discusses the computerised future of cultural studies and the humanities by analysing the relation between theory and practice and the complementarity of science and literature. As a case study, the paper reports briefly on the research project “Distorted Temporality in Kazuo Ishiguro’s Novels: A Holistic Approach”, which proposes a theoretical and practical approach to the distorted nature of time in Ishigurian characters’ perception. The theoretical and empirical objectives of the study consisted in helping Ishiguro’s readers understand their natural tendency to distort time. The hypotheses and sub-hypotheses were tested using a quantitative approach, through a self-administered questionnaire in English, with closed- and open-ended questions. One set of data was collected from 2610 Romanian and foreign respondents, with regard to their perception of time and their interpretation of Kazuo Ishiguro’s novels. The data set was then analysed using descriptive, inferential, and path-analysis methods (frequencies, percentages, PLS-PM, t-tests, ANOVA, multiple linear and binary logistic regression, mediation, moderation, and moderated mediation) and two statistical programs (R studio 4.3.4. and WarpPLS 6.0.). The results indicate that, when embraced with an open heart, time distortion becomes a valuable tool for preserving human sanity and orientating human choices, decisions and actions in the right direction. Thus, if combined with the traditional approaches to literature, digital humanities and computational criticism could provide a more accurate image of world literature, far beyond the models of interpretation based on the literary canons.

Keywords: Kazuo Ishiguro, Interdisciplinarity, Digital Humanities, Computational Criticism, Psychotherapeutic Literature.