

Lieven VANDELANOTTE

*Seeing in Bits: Lessons From Visual Art
in Rethinking Viewpoint in Discourse*

Of traditional photography David Hockney once said it is “all right if you don’t mind looking at the world from the point of view of a paralyzed Cyclops – for a split second” (1984: 9); in reality we scan all the time, see in bits, and link the bits together. In this talk various examples from Hockney’s own artistic practice (including painting, photo collage and multi-screen video art), as well as that of precursors, illustrate ways in which visual art overcomes this limited “single vanishing point” perspective typical of photographs. This search for richer and “bigger” pictures is compared to the way in which, in the history of the novel, forms such as free indirect discourse have crystallized from authors’ tweaking of various parameters (pronouns, quotation marks, embedding, etc.), and further parallels are drawn between multiplicity of viewpoint in image and discourse in examples from poetry and from contemporary, “fragmented” novels. The general point that emerges from this exploration is that in discourse as in visual artefacts, global coherence is achieved through compression and blending of the potentially manifold local viewpoints the reader or viewer is presented with.

References:

- Gayford, Martin (2011) *A Bigger Message: Conversations with David Hockney*. London: Thames & Hudson.
Hockney, David (1984) *Cameraworks*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Lieven VANDELANOTTE is associate professor of English linguistics at the University of Namur and research fellow in linguistics at the University of Leuven. He has published articles and book chapters on the English noun phrase, reported speech and thought constructions, and cognitive-linguistic analyses of literary texts. He published the monograph *Speech and Thought Representation in English: A Cognitive-Functional Approach* (De Gruyter) in 2009, has co-edited books on (inter)subjectification (2010, De Gruyter), textual choices in discourse (2012, Benjamins), corpus interrogation and grammatical patterns (2014, Benjamins) and on developing and exploiting corpora (2014, Rodopi), and co-edits the journal *English Text Construction* (Benjamins). E-mail: lieven.vandelanotte@unamur.be.

