Abstract

Näslund, Shirley, shirleynaslund@yahoo.se, MA, Dept. of Scandinavian Languages, Lund University, Sweden: “Punctuation marks as stylistic instruments. The usage of comma, dash and ellipsis in ten poems of Nils Ferlin”. Språk och stil 17, 2007, pp. 135–151.

This article exemplifies how stylistic effects can be achieved by varying the use of punctuation marks. In several of his poems, Nils Ferlin (1898–1961) deviates from the traditional use of comma, dash and ellipsis (“three dots”) by adding more functions to these conventions than those mentioned in the handbooks of writing. Yet he does not completely abandon the conventional functions, which instead serve as a point of departure for his experimentation. In the present analysis, it will be demonstrated how Ferlin elaborates, refines and stretches the current functions of comma, dash and ellipsis. By means of unusual placings and odd constellations, he creates different stylistic, rhythmical and dramatic effects. Ferlin’s use of punctuation marks thus plays an important role in our experience of the content in his poems.

Keywords: punctuation marks, stylistic effects, Nils Ferlin, comma, dash, ellipsis, Swedish.