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"Blending Theory and the Question of the Cognitive Extension of Narrative Situations"

The paper will attempt to use Turner and Fauconnier's blending theory in the explanation of narrative situations, particularly for the extension of natural storytelling parameters towards non-natural ones.

My basic question is how one gets from storytelling situations that exist in everyday reality to literary storytelling situations that are no longer possible in the real world. I suggest that this process can be modelled on a natural process of mental blending which, according to Turner, is constitutive of much fictionality. Moving on from there, I propose examples of some extensions providing diagrams for the various blends.

In order to make this paper intelligible to an audience not specializing in cognitive metaphor theory, the opening part of the paper will provide some key ideas of cognitive metaphor theory and blending theory.