***SHERLOCK* (2010)**

**Sherlock and John’s first meeting – script analysis (multimodal texts)**

Preliminary questions:

Have you ever read or seen any Sherlock Holmes stories/films?

If so, how is the character portrayed? What are his most prototypical features? Can you remember any other characters that appear in the stories?

If not, have you ever heard about this fictional character? How do you imagine him?

Interpretation/response to texts based on:

1) knowledge of the world

2) reading techniques (analytical tools)

*Sherlock:* this is British crime drama television series is based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes detective stories (e.g. *A Study in Scarlet* 1886, *The Sign of the Four* 1890, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* 1901 etc.). This BBC series, created by Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss, stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes and Martin Freeman as Doctor John Watson, and was aired from 2010 to 2017.

This is a **multimodal** text, i.e. a text in which more than one **mode** is employed. Modes can deal with vision (pictorial sign, graphological emphasis, colour, signs, numerical signs gestures, etc.), sound (e.g. sound effects, music, soundtracks, etc.) and others (e.g. kinaesthetic movements, etc.). Multimodality thus relates to a host of different genres and typologies, including digital narratives (e.g. videogames).

Provide a stylistic-pragmatic analysis of text ‘Sherlock and John’s first meeting’, considering all the textual and paratextual elements that contribute to the construction of the overall meaning. For exampleyou’re your investigation, you may consider:

* **deixis** (e.g. space via adverb phrase, demonstrative pronouns, verbs / time via adverb phrases, verbs / social deixis: variation of forms of address for the same person),
* **speech acts** (Are there specific speech acts regularly used by the characters? What does the presence of speech acts reveal about characters and the relations they have one with the other? Is there a character who gives turns to others? Are there interruptions? If so, who interrupts who? And why? Which characters start a new topic and which cannot do so?)
* **politeness and impoliteness** (Do the characters follow rules of politeness one with the other? Are there any particular form of politeness or impoliteness? Do these forms influence the plot or the thematic development of the text?)

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VaT7IYQgyqo>

Script source: <http://arianedevere.livejournal.com/43794.html>