Ethnography in a Time of Blurred Genres

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SUMMARY Drawing from Francine Prose's Reading Like a Writer (2006), this article offers suggestions for reading ethnographies in a new way: with an eye toward learning how they were written and what literary feats they accomplished. In a time of blurred genres, the line between fiction and nonfiction has become increasingly indistinct and it is no longer so clear where ethnography is to be positioned. It is therefore important to reassess the possibilities and limits of ethnography as a literary genre if we are to understand the idiosyncrasics of its "art." [Keywoods: blurred genres, ethnographic writing, autoethnography, history of anthropology, reflexivity]

Prologue

I think it's wonderful that we've come together for a special issue on the art of ethnography.

This must mean that we agree that ethnography has an "art." But there might be a slight problem: Does ethnography have an "art"? And there might be an even bigger problem: Do anthropologists truly must ethnography to have an "art"? I think most anthropologists would rather ethnography didn't have any "art" at all.

So what we have is a conundrum: If those of us who see or desire or dream of an "art" of ethnography are just a small minority in our discipline, might we be better off simply writing memoir or creative nonfiction or travel writing or chronicles or poetry? Beyond anthropology and a few academic disciplines, like education or composition and rhetoric, the genre of ethnography remains a mystery. Those who think they know what ethnography is tend to associate it with the social sciences and the careful scrutiny of social systems, rather than with artful forms of creative writing.

The question thus arises: for us, the artsy ethnographers, does thinking of our work as ethnography set us up to fail as would-be artists? And there's more: by calling our work ethnography, might we lose the chance to publish our work with mainstream publishers? Might we lose readers?

Finally, why should we stay loyal to ethnography? In a time of blurred genres—when fiction bleeds into memoir and vice versa—does it make sense to seek out a unique identity for ethnography, a genre which partakes of both

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Anthropological Literature On Disc

RS Peters

Anthropological Literature On Disc:

Unveiling the Power of Verbal Beauty: An Emotional Sojourn through Anthropological Literature On Disc

In a world inundated with displays and the cacophony of fast connection, the profound power and psychological resonance of verbal beauty frequently fade in to obscurity, eclipsed by the regular barrage of sound and distractions. Yet, situated within the lyrical pages of **Anthropological Literature On Disc**, a fascinating work of literary splendor that impulses with fresh feelings, lies an memorable trip waiting to be embarked upon. Penned with a virtuoso wordsmith, this interesting opus manuals readers on an emotional odyssey, gently revealing the latent potential and profound influence embedded within the complex web of language. Within the heart-wrenching expanse with this evocative analysis, we shall embark upon an introspective exploration of the book is key styles, dissect its fascinating writing model, and immerse ourselves in the indelible impact it leaves upon the depths of readers souls.

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Anthropological Literature On Disc Introduction

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