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The Symbolic Landscape of Cyber Erotic: From A Rhetorical Perspective

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Abstract

This paper is the first empirical study which utilizes "Symbolic Convergence Theory / Fantasy Theme Analysis" to analyze cyber-erotic text. Grounded on rhetoric tradition, Symbolic Convergence Theory is powerful in presenting the dynamic process of how the rhetorical artifacts are created, competed and converged. By adopting the theory, researchers can observe the development of an organizational culture and further make a thick, precise interpretation of it. Several fantasy themes and types were found in this study. We also successfully draw the rhetorical vision from our analyzed materials: Safe and free sex is good sex. Under such a rhetorical vision, researchers present the sexuality, sex subjects and sexual practice among this rhetorical community.

The coming of cyber society impacts many traditional paradigms, theories, and research methods. The tentative effort in this paper is to discuss application problem of Symbolic Convergence Theory in computer-mediated communication context.