Style in Children's Literature: A Comparison of Passages from Books for Adults and for Children

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Abstract
In this study I tested the standard assumptions about differences in language usage in adult and children's literature by analyzing parallel passages from the works of four authors, Nathaniel Hawthorne, George MacDonald, Oscar Wilde, and John Gardner, who each wrote prose fantasy for both audiences.

A computer program and syntactic code based on those used by York University in Toronto provided a statistical analysis of the 20,000 words of selected text. I found that the passages from the children's books had much shorter paragraphs, and slightly shorter sentences, T-units, clauses, and words. T-units were the most consistently and notably reduced elements. The children's books also had more lexical repetition and fewer abstract and Latinate words and tended towards a verbal style. These characteristics support some of the common assumptions about children's literature, but the differences were slighter than anticipated. In the area of syntax, the assumption that coordination would increase and subordination decrease markedly in the children's stories did not prove true. Coordination was only marginally more frequent in the children's passages, and subordination nearly equal in both sets. The reduction of prepositions in the juvenile samples seems of more significance syntactically. In the children's passages there are large increases in the amount of dialogue and in the use of Germanic based words.

My general conclusion is that the differences in the children's passages reflect a stronger tendency towards everyday speech, that children's authors borrow more conventions from conversation and from oral traditions when writing for a child audience.

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moral story for children was always threatened from within, given the way children have of drawing out entertainment from the sternest moralist. But the greatest blow to the improving children’s book was to come from an unlikely source indeed: early 19th-century interest in folklore. A. Wrote criticisms of children’s literature
B. Used animals to demonstrate the absurdity of fairy tales
C. Was not a writer originally
D. Translated a book into English
E. Didn’t write in the English language.

19. Thomas Boreham
20. Mrs. Sarah trimmer

Questions 22-26.
26. Today children’s book writers believe their works should appeal to both children and adults.

Answer: 14. rhymes, stories / stories, rhymes
15. Books with lower reading levels featuring stories about children are usually for children. This is not to say that adults can’t enjoy them as well, but they’re made to be readable by beginning readers. Young adult literature also tends to be easier to read than general fiction, and usually features teens or very young adults. They are usually very emotionally charged, and have the kinds of gripping plots that make you want to keep flipping to the next chapter no matter what the clock says. This is to keep the target demographic interested. YA can also have some sexual content that wouldn’t be