

Publication

Échographies. Niveaux de résonance dans Morale Élémentaire I

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In 1975, Raymond Queneau offers a new fixed form, the “morale élémentaire”, made out of “bi-words” – substantive + adjective couples – and strictly organised: 3 times (3+1) bi-words, 7 lines, (3+1) bi-words.

Queneau called this form “inspired”. We hypothesise a highly structured form, although without visible tricks.

We examine characteristic networks of “repetitions, rimes, alliterations, échos *ad libitum*”, central to the poetic charge of these poems. We map them using our QUENEAU database, where each “echo” is described, classified and located. We draw statistics from these data, then graphs. These graphic renderings allow us to visualise the echo networks: we call them “echographs”.

We identify initial and conclusive mark-ups for bi-words groups and for bi-words. Groups mostly echo within their borders; group to group echoes follow a symmetry pattern, producing a system of systems, all closed and complete.

The “echoes *ad libitum*” are truly structuring features, and a reminder of classical versification forms, such as metre, strophe, or rhyme.

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