

REPORT BOOK: THE JOURNALIST AS AUTHOR

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1. Introduction

The introducers of New Journalism, Tom Wolf, Gay Talese, Norman Mailer and Truman Capote, carried out major transformations that caused the closer relationship between journalism and literature, from the investigation to the editing of the news the process is different, with a more human approach and close to the reader, using techniques from fiction literature (SILVA PEREIRA, 2017).

The report book is a way of providing the reader with the opportunity to delve deeper into a certain subject. The opportunity is offered in book format, in a relationship between journalism and literature that outlines journalistic talent and thus contributes to a critical view of society. The general objective is to address the role of the journalist as an author in a report book. As specific objectives: bring aspects related to *new journalism*; identify the purpose of the report book. Bibliographical research was used as a methodology.

2 Theoretical foundation

2.1 *New journalism*

The history of reporting and great reporting would not be the same without the existence and repercussion of the movement known as *new journalism* or new journalism, in the USA. *New journalism* It was the disposition that revived the knowledge of journalism practiced with literary improvements, reconstructing North American reporting from the 1960s and 1970s. However, it cannot be understood without placing it in the cultural context that marked its time (SILVA PEREIRA, 2017).

New Journalism was invented so that it could fulfill the dream of many journalists, that is, writing a novel. At that time, the country was going through a moment of intense cultural, social and behavioral upheaval, influenced especially by the

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movement *hippie*. The new journalism sought a submersion of body and mind to experience reality in both the objective and subjective, immaterial aspects. Its characteristics stand out, above all, with regard to the two stages of journalistic production: capture and writing. O *new journalism* cannot be considered unanimously in the journalistic environment and in the academic community, having been questioned by those who discover in it a distortion of journalistic practice by literary fiction (RITTER, 2018).

2.2 A view of the report book

Nowadays, there is a tendency for people to specialize in certain subjects that interest them and, in a way, ignore what does not suit them. The journalist, then, through appropriate language indicates paths in a way that allows judgments to be made to anyone who is interested. The reporter, in turn, must be in-depth knowledge of the most diverse generalities.

People increasingly need information agility and seek instant news, almost *online*. It turns out that this speed makes it impossible to delve deeper into the topics in traditional media. The immediacy of TV, radio, the internet and, sometimes, also the printed newspaper, means that the depth of the facts is placed in the background. Under the argument that people no longer have time for extensive reporting, the media treat the issues superficially.

The report book fills this gap and deals in the most comprehensive way possible all aspects of a given topic. Depth here is an essential element. As it is non-periodic, the report book allows its author to delve deeper into the topic, providing the reader with more complete information on a given subject.

The report book is a hybrid form that uses journalistic devices (agenda, themes, writing and editing) and literary devices (narrative elements, etc.). This allows for greater reader involvement. The report book thus reaches a territory that delves into the fact and tells a story. Hence, it is said that the work is journalistic and literary (TRINDADE; INÁCIO, 2017).

Therefore, it is inferred that journalism uses literature to address relevant topics in a more complete and in-depth manner and which, for various reasons, do not have adequate space in conventional media. Thus, the report book advances in the gaps left by television, radio, newspapers and the internet and removes the superficial nature of the news. The report is, then, a deepening of the news and the great report is the contextualization

Therefore, the report book has to extensively address the reported fact (RITTER, 2018).

In book-reports, controversy, one of the journalistic operations, is fundamental. It allows the reader to debate the ideas presented in the book. Therefore, the controversy is structuring and must be organized in a way that convinces the reader. The absence of controversy, therefore, makes it impossible to classify a book as a report book.

Book-report is a non-periodic printed communication vehicle that presents reports at a greater level than the usual treatment in periodic journalistic media. By a higher degree of breadth, we mean greater emphasis on the treatment of the topic in focus in the extensive and intensive aspects. (LIMA, 2004).

The report book can result from a simple compilation of already published reports (collection) or from work done for a book, but conceived and carried out in journalistic terms. It is distinguished from other types of book by three essential conditions: content, treatment and function.

Finally, the report book serves different purposes that unfold from the basic objectives of informing, guiding and explaining, encompassing the various existing journalistic genres: rounded informative journalism (only extensive in-depth); interpretive journalism (extensive and intensive in-depth studies); opinionated journalism (unilateral stance to defend a set of principles); investigative journalism (reporting tone); and diversional journalism (oriented towards leisure) (MEDINA, 2001).

The particular function of the report book is to inform and guide in depth about social occurrences, factual episodes, lasting events, situations, ideas and human figures, in a way that offers the reader a picture of contemporary times capable of situating them in the face of their multiple realities. , to show you the meaning, the meaning of the contemporary world. (LIMA, 2004). Its characteristics and specificities are formed from a complementary relationship with periodic communication vehicles, whose nature creates demands for the production of report books.

Enjoying autonomy in terms of length and content, the report book does not need advertising space nor does it have direct competitors that interfere in the choice of its themes. The initial investment it demands and the results it can generate also contribute to the report migrating from the conventional press to the book. The journalistic procedures that will give rise to the report book are nothing more than the set of steps that form any journalism production: agenda, capture,

writing and editing. However, each of them has its own characteristics, which together will result in a singular product, the report book.

The agenda is free from the typical constraints of the conventional press, such as periodicity, timeliness and editorial line, in addition to developing freely with regard to angle, approach, topic covered, sources heard, temporal axis and purpose. The capture does not give up on instruments established in daily journalism, such as research, documentation and interviews, making use of tools dear to the human sciences, such as life history, oral history and participant observation.

In writing, the report book absorbs the author's style, becoming imbued with his way of narrating and linking descriptions and scenes, in line with the literary resources that the writer deems appropriate to make the narrative fluent and vivid for the reader. Alongside fluency, the report book, as a finished product, must show efficiency in the tasks of informing and guiding in depth, objectives that the edition must not lose sight of (TRINDADE; INÁCIO, 2017).

In this aspect, it is understood that when preparing the report book, the journalist is free to experiment with different procedures for capturing reality, which may be participant observation, oral history or any other that requires more time than the press. periodical is interested in taking time off to cover a topic.

2.3 Report

The report can be a complement to news or based on situations that are not news, but that are of interest to society. In any case, it is a journalistic genre differentiated from news, although the genre is not explicit, the report can be characterized as expanded news or as an autonomous genre. The report must bring all the possibilities of an event (MEDINA, 2001).

According to Coimbra (1993), the text of the report has a dissertation, narration and description as its structure. In the dissertation, the structure of the text is based on explanatory reasoning by which the information is generalized, accompanied by justification. The narrative will contain facts organized within a relationship of anteriority or posteriority, and may show progressive transformations of state in people and things, over time. Lage (2017) divides reporting into: investigative, in which the report is part of a fact, which reveals others; interpretative, which observes the facts under the

methodological perspective of a given science, sociological and economic being frequent; and the type that seeks to grasp the essence of the phenomenon, using literary techniques in the construction of situations and narrated episodes. For a report to be produced, it is necessary to take into account the interest it will generate, that is, the journalistic opportunity. In any type of report, the reporting guidelines must include subject, fact that generates interest, if any, nature of the matter and context, editorial line, more precise definition of what is expected in terms of use, available resources and technical support.

Final considerations

Thinking about the relationship between journalism and literature shows us that it is possible to seek a permeable border between the two types of writing, in order to invest in the construction of a more attractive text and a more real literature.

After completing the work, it can be said that book-reporting is a literary and journalistic genre in which the author narrates a detailed and extensive report that would not be supported by conventional journalism media, such as newspapers and magazines.

In Brazil, there is still a long way to go for the history of reportage books to gain stronger contours, but little by little, reportage books are gaining space and prominence in bookstores. It is important to highlight that journalism is fundamental for refining literary skills; journalistic activity awakens the sense of accuracy that descriptive narrative uses so much.

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