

time the relationship between the paper and its readers has weakened.

Currently news journalism is more likely grounded in 'representative logic' than in the public. This 'thin journalism' fails to address readers as stakeholders, ignores the relevance of their rationality based on everyday life, and denies them a forum for expressing their criticisms. Only through tackling these flaws news journalism could become 'strong'. This challenge has been explicitly stated and put into practice in numerous public journalism projects in the US. This article focuses on a series of such projects conducted in a semilarge Finnish newspaper *Savon Sanomat*. The experiments show that citizens gathered in discussion groups were more than capable of addressing public concerns and providing their rationality for public discussion. This potential was, however, inadequately utilized by the paper. This conclusion should direct further discussion on journalistic practices on a practical basis.

Mika Renvall and Esa Reunanen: Community in the hunt for truth

In this article a view of journalism as a communal truth-hunt is developed. It is suggested, that journalism could be understood as communal, problem-solving discussion rather than as dissemination of ready-made truths. Another objective of the article is to find means to study the conversational aspect of journalistic texts. These ideas are developed using the theoretical frameworks of C. S. Peirce, Jürgen Habermas and the public journalism movement.

Markku Ihonen Novel as public sphere: The establishment of Finnish literary public sphere and discussion on novel

Since 1809, Finland belonged to Russia as an autonomous Grand Duchy. Accordingly, the Finnish public sphere was established delayed and in a way of its own. During the process of institutionalising of the national

organisations, novel was seen as an essential part of public sphere. The establishment of novel as a literary genre occurred late in Finland, partly due to the hegemony of the archaic-like epic which was given the specific role of strengthening Finnish national identity. Being dialogic of its nature and capable to discuss every kind of questions evoking in a developing society, novel became, however, the very genre of modern nation-state. Finnish novels were few until the 1880's but foreign novels were discussed eagerly in Finland, especially in the 1840's and 1850's. Religious conservatives, afraid of demoralising effects of novel, nevertheless banished the genre entirely.

The first Finnish original novels in the 1840's, in fact, did not work as expected. They were either too melodramatic as well as too romantic, or full of historical sentimentalism. What is more, literature begun to institutionalise little by little in order to get a full autonomy as art. During the last decades, Finnish literature seems to have lost almost all of its power to participate public discussion.

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