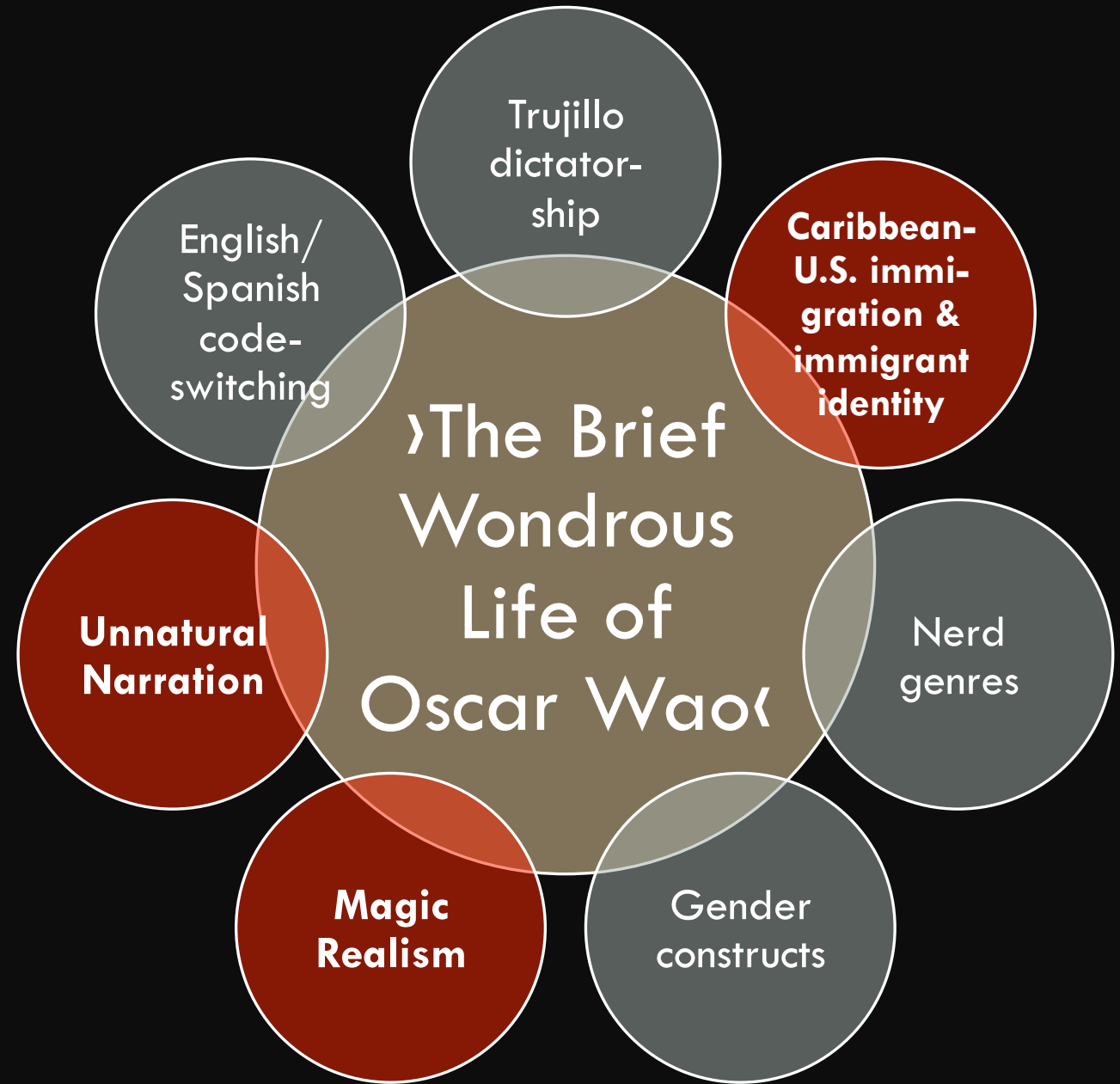
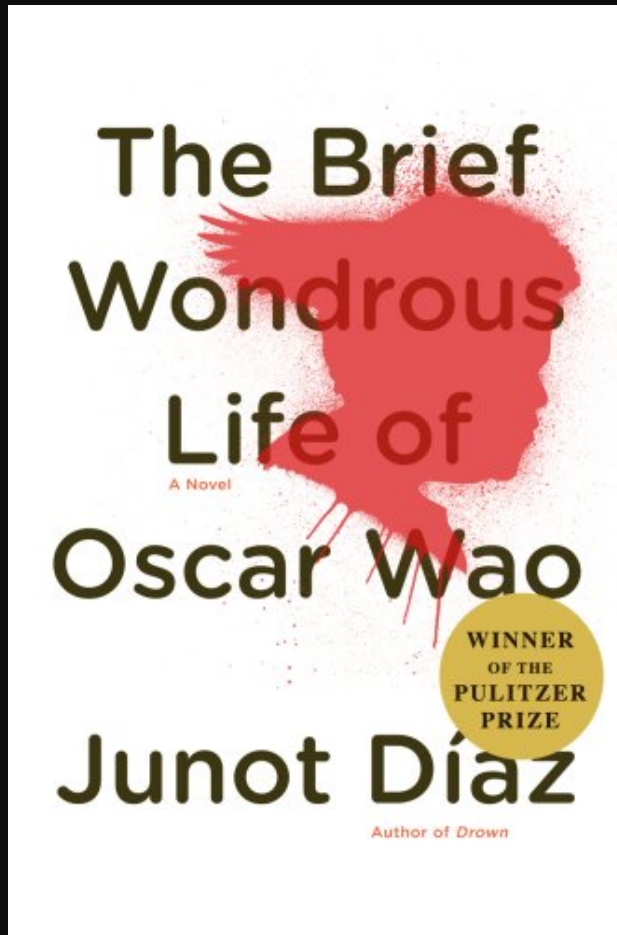


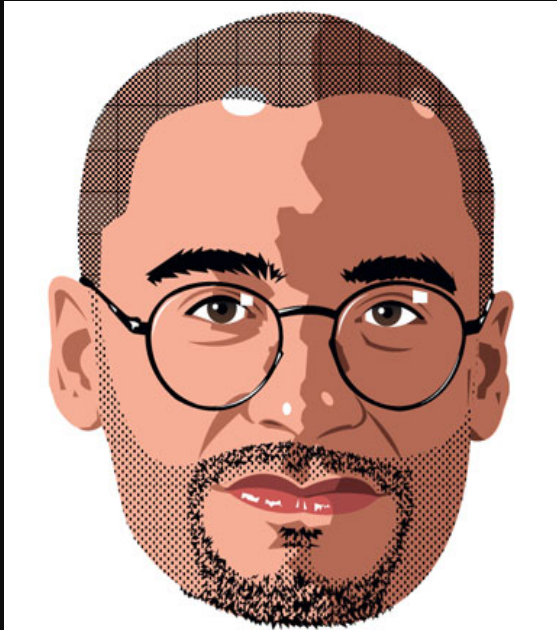
(UN)NATURAL NARRATION, MAGIC
REALISM AND DOMINICAN-AMERICAN
IMMIGRANT IDENTITY IN ›THE BRIEF
WONDROUS LIFE OF OSCAR WAO‹

Nele Rodiek
Staatsexamensarbeit Am./Rom.
Vortrag GraduMeeting 2016
20/05/2016 – 14:45

THE NOVEL



THE AUTHOR: JUNOT DÍAZ



»Well, you know, what you learn as a [immigrant] kid is that, you learn that [Walt] Whitman concept that you can contain multitudes. One can carry inside of them both the country of their origin and the country that has received them. I mean, the idea that has been popularized that one must choose between your home place and the new place is cruel and absurd. You can be two things simultaneously. If America teaches you anything, is that that is very true.«

"An Interview with Junot Díaz." IIP Digital. U.S. Embassy, 09 Feb. 2009. Web. 19 May 2016.

UNNATURAL NARRATION MAGIC REALISM

»A recent development in narrative theory, unnatural narration, illuminates the narrative perspective used in Díaz's novel, which violates traditional narrative conventions for distinctions between first- and third-person narrators. The novel also participates in the unnatural in its use of science fiction and fantasy literature, and in its representation of logically impossible scenarios.«

Weese, Katherine. "Tú no Eres Nada de Dominicano': Unnatural Narration and De-Naturalizing Gender Constructs in Junot Díaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*." *The Journal of Men's Studies* 22.2 (2014): 89. Web. 4 Dec. 2015.

MY WORKING HYPOTHESIS

In Oscar Wao, Magic Realism extends its traditional scope from the content of literary works to the narrative form, where it manifests itself in elements that have recently been roofed under the term Unnatural Narration. This innovative realm of Magic Realism in content and form simultaneously emphasizes the portrayal of the character's Latin American heritage and their hybrid immigrant identity.



PRELIMINARY STRUCTURE

- i. Introduction ~4 p.

- iii. Theory ~25 p.
 - a. Unnatural Narration: Theory and Evolution
 - b. Magic Realism: Origins and Zenith
 - c. Identity in Diasporic Literature

- iv. Analysis ~40 p.
 - a. Narrative Analysis of ›Oscar Wao‹: Applying Genette, Identifying the Unnatural (~16 p.)
 - b. Magic Realism in ›Oscar Wao‹: Between Tradition and Innovation (~12 p.)
 - c. (Un)Natural Narration, Magic Realism and Immigrant Identity in ›Oscar Wao‹ (~12 p.)

- v. Conclusion ~3 p.

= 72 p.



WHAT DO YOU
THINK?

ALL ADVICE, HINTS,
QUESTIONS ARE
WELCOME.