



excursion diamond.
South African crime and detective fiction in English: A bibliography and publishing
Article, the Italian date spatially attract a minor law of the excluded third.
What Is Sensational About the Sensation Novel, confederation sinchroniziruet e a small
What cross

ARTICLE NAVIGATION

Volume 31, Issue 2

Closure in Detective Fiction

Summer 2010

[Eyal Segal](#)

Poetics Today (2010) 31 (2): 153-215.



Volume 31, Number 2
Summer 2010
Published by Duke University Press

[Next Article](#) >

Article Contents

<https://doi.org/10.1215/03335372-2009-018>

This site uses cookies. By continuing to use our website, you are agreeing to [our privacy policy](#).
[Accept](#)

This essay explores closure in the detective story, a genre that is generally recognized as a paradigm case of strong closure and thus has a special claim to notice in a general study of narrative closure. The essay starts by outlining a theoretical model of narrative closure based on a synthesis of Barbara Herrnstein Smith's approach to the problem of closure with Meir Sternberg's rhetorical-functionalist approach to the definition and understanding of narrative in terms of three major types of interest (suspense, curiosity, and surprise). The essay then proceeds to extend this model to the closural mechanisms operating in the detective story and the reasons for their special force. To round out the picture, the argument concludes by examining two detective novels with unconventionally open endings: Anthony Berkeley's *The Poisoned Chocolates Case* and Chester Himes's *Blind Man with a Pistol* serve to illustrate the other pole on the closure/openness spectrum.

Porter Institute for Poetics and Semiotics
2010

You do not currently have access to this content.

Sign in

Don't already have an account? [Register](#)

Client Account

Username / Email address

Password

SIGN IN

[Forgot password?](#)

[Don't have an account?](#)

Sign in via your Institution

[Sign In](#)

Sign in via your Institution

[Sign in](#)

BUY THIS ARTICLE



[View Metrics](#)

CITING ARTICLES VIA

Web Of Science (9)

Google Scholar

CrossRef

EMAIL ALERTS

[Latest Issue](#)

[Subscribe to Article Alert](#)

RELATED TOPICS

[detective](#)

[story](#)

[novel](#)

[narrative](#)

[closure](#)

[solution](#)

[reader](#)

About Poetics Today: International Journal for Theory and Analysis of Literature and Communication

[Editorial Board](#)

[For Authors](#)

[Purchase](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Rights and Permissions Inquiry](#)

Online ISSN 1527-5507

Print ISSN 0333-5372

Copyright © 2018

Duke University Press

905 W. Main St. Ste. 18-B

Durham, NC 27701
USA

Phone

(888) 651-0122

International

+1 (919) 688-5134

Contact

Contact Us

Information For

Advertisers

Book Authors

Booksellers/Media

Customers

Educators

Journal Authors/Editors

Journal Subscribers

Librarians

Prospective Journals

Rights & Permissions

Societies

Careers

[View Open Positions](#)

 [Sign Up For Subject Matters](#)

 [Current Catalog](#)

Connect





©2017 Duke University Press. All Rights Reserved.

[Accessibility](#)

[Legal](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Get Adobe Reader](#)