

New Review of Children's Literature and Librarianship >

Volume 10, 2004 - [Issue 1](#)

77 | 1 | 0
Views | CrossRef citations to date | Altmetric

Original Articles

Validating the veracity: narrative voice and the construction of authentic histories in joan o'neill's daisy *chain war*

Pádraic Whyte

Pages 71-78 | Published online: 16 Aug 2006

 Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/1361454042000294113>

Sample our
Communication Studies
Journals

>> [Sign in here](#) to start your access
to the latest two volumes for 14 days

 Full Article  Figures & data  References  Citations  Metrics

 Reprints & Permissions

[Read this article](#)

[Share](#)

Abstract

By reconsidering recent debates in relation to the construction of history and memory in literature, I examine the use of the first-person narrative structure in historical fiction for children. I propose that in certain texts a pseudo-autobiography or 'memoir-style' of fiction is constituted for the implied child reader, where the position of the narrative voice is used to validate the veracity of both the childhood experience and the historical period that is documented in the novel. Focussing on Joan O'Neill's best-selling *Daisy Chain War* (1990), a tale of growing up in Dublin in the 1940s and 1950s, I analyse the use of child protagonist Lizzie Doyle as narrator. Theories employed include Foucault's idea of 'history of the present'. I also draw upon debates surrounding the writing and revising of history in 1990s Ireland (R. F. Foster's idea of the

commodification of Irish childhood through memoirs) and the position of O'Neill's work within this cultural framework.

[← Previous article](#)

[View issue table of contents](#)

[Next article >](#)

Related research

Recommended articles

Cited by
1

Information for

[Authors](#)

[R&D professionals](#)

[Editors](#)

[Librarians](#)

[Societies](#)

Opportunities

[Reprints and e-prints](#)

[Advertising solutions](#)

[Accelerated publication](#)

[Corporate access solutions](#)

Open access

[Overview](#)

[Open journals](#)

[Open Select](#)

[Dove Medical Press](#)

[F1000Research](#)

Help and information

[Help and contact](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[All journals](#)

[Books](#)

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email



Sign me up



Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited [Privacy policy](#)

[Cookies](#) [Terms & conditions](#) [Accessibility](#)

 Taylor and Francis
Group

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG