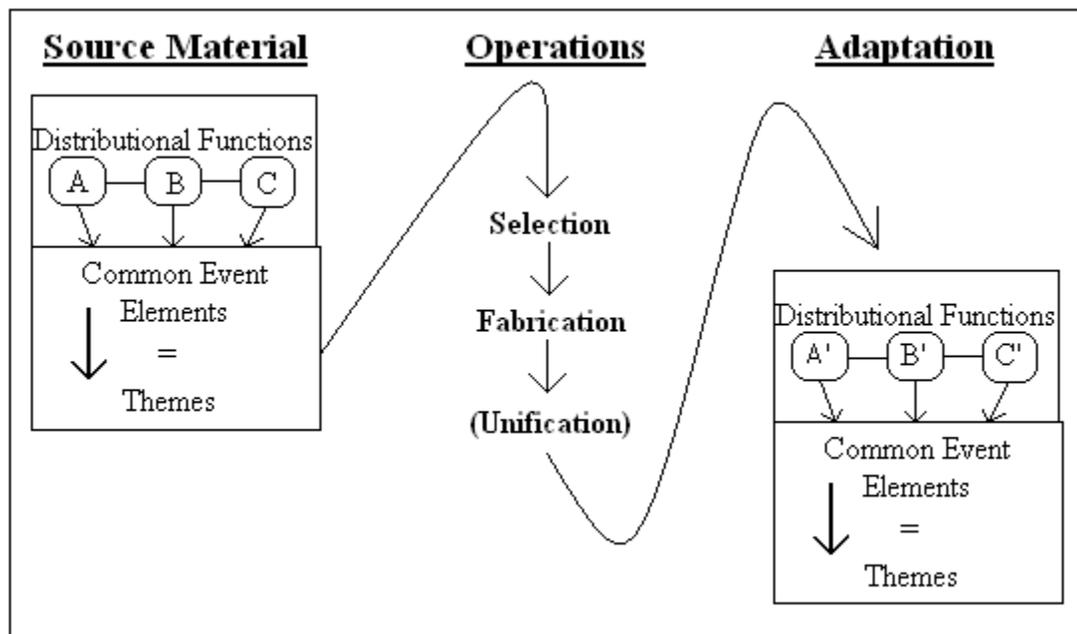


Dear Students,

In our last summary and class session I introduced a model of *structural adaptation* (Fifth Summary) based on our definition and analysis of *basic narrative* (First Summary). A structural adaptation uses the same set of “distributional functions” (i.e. events) as the source material upon which it is based¹. You may want to review the relevant portions of the first and fifth summaries to refresh your memory about the definitions and operations that will apply to the model below.

The model below captures the process of *thematic adaptation*. Adaptations are thematic if they share particular characters and conflicts in common with their source material, but do not employ the identical set of “distributional functions” (i.e. events) in the central plot. Themes emerge from the most fundamental event elements embedded in the source material. Thus, while thematic adaptations do not use the specific events of the source material, they do use the underlying commonalities that support those events. Fundamentally, these common event elements are characters and conflicts.



Notice that the thematic adaptation model (above) employs the same three columns (source material, operations, adaptation) as the structural adaptation model. However, instead of selecting specific distributional functions (events) for adaptation, themes are selected in the form of characters and conflicts. However, characters and conflicts alone are insufficient for the formation of a new narrative. Therefore, it is necessary to introduce “fabrication” as an adaptive operation.

- Fabrication: The creation of new events (distributional functions) specifically for the adaptation.

Though the fabricated events of the thematic adaptation have no direct correspondence to the original events of the source material, they resonate because they are constrained by the same themes deriving from character and conflict. As with all narratives, the resulting thematic adaptation is designed with the

¹ The correspondence of distributional functions between source material and adaptation is never perfect.

purpose of “unification” wherein a sequence of related events produce a sense of rising action and terminate in a climactic event where the dramatic tension of the narrative is resolved.

Represented in the adaptation column on the right-hand side are the fabricated distributional functions (A^1 , B^1 , C^1) which were motivated by the character and conflict themes selected from the original narrative toward the end of creating a new narrative unity.