Multimodal text talk about a multisemiotic text
A paper presentation at the 1st Finnish Symposium on Multimodality and SFL, Helsinki July 2007

My research questions concern how texts are read and interpreted by different people connected to education on different levels of schooling. The aim is to get a closer understanding of how texts are read and interpreted by young people and their teachers, in groups and individually. The question put in this context is how people say they read a text, what modes they use, if and how different modes interact. The theoretical underpinnings are foremost inspired by SFL and Social Semiotics (Halliday, 2004, Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006).

In this presentation a popular scientific newspaper article about Linné is used. The layout is a very sophisticated mix of verbal and visual texts. The informants are a group of first year Swedish science teacher students and an Australian SFL-experienced teacher and teacher educator.

The results show different reading patterns as well as modes used when talking about the text. They also point at different depth in the engagement with and interpretation of the text.

Power point presentation