LECTURE NO. 5
17.06.2023

HELLO EVERYONE!

4. Narrative Techniques

Last time we talked about the narrative techniques. We said that there are many types of narrators:

- The subjective narrator uses the "I" point of view.
- The objective narrator is the third person narrator.

We also talked about the *reliable* and the *unreliable* narrator and we talked about the *consistent* and the *inconsistent* narrator.

- The reliable narrator is a trust worthy narrator. When he says something, we believe it. The reliable narrator is consistent.
- The unreliable narrator is inconsistent. He changes his mind all the time.

We also talked about *intrusion, intimacy,* and *complicity.*

We talked about the narrator and the narratee.

- The narratee is the person to whom the story is narrated by the narrator.

Example of an exam question:
The narratee is someone who narrates the story to the reader.

a. True b. *False*

- The novel is told or addressed to the reader.
- The narration is addressed to the narratee.

When the narratee addresses the narration, he becomes a narrator. We had an example about this in Mr. Lockwood and Mrs. Lockwood in Wuthering Heights by Emile Bronte.

We talked about the fact that Heart of Darkness is a novella.

The last thing we talked about was Charles Dickens's Great Expectations and his narrator Pip. I said that I don't want the rest of this paragraph; only this idea is required.

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Let's continue:

I'm going to talk about the internal and external elements that may affect the narrative techniques.

We have two kinds of novels that affected the narrative techniques:

- *The epistolary novels*: they are novels that rely on letter writing. The novel itself would be a collection of letters. The epistolary novel was in the 18th century.

- *The stream of consciousness novel*: it appeared in the 20th century. It is the novel within which the writer examines the psychological aspects of the characters and delves into their minds. This kind of novels reflects what is happening inside the characters' minds. The minds of the characters are a stage upon which the events of the novel take place.

These two kinds of novels affected the narrative techniques in addition to four elements that we are going to talk about.

Note:

- In the paragraph that talks about Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness, I only want you to memorize the names of the narrators. We said we have Marlow as the inside narrator and we have an outer narrator that in unnamed.

- In the next paragraph, I only want the following: In Charles Dickens's Great Expectations (1860-61) the narrator is Pip.

- The rest of this paragraph is not. required

- Page 28: From the beginning of the page until "he comments directly" is not required.

Page 28:

> It is, in conclusion, important to be able to see narrative techniques in their historical context and development, as well as appreciating the 'internal' technical reasons for developments in narrative technique. 1.

The rise of the epistolary novel in the eighteenth century cannot be understood apart from the much greater importance of letter writing at that time, and 2. the emergence of the stream of consciousness novel in the twentieth century has to be related to the development of modern psychology and the increasing interest in mental operations that accompanies it.

It is important to look at the historical context within which the novel and the narrative techniques developed because they are the outer surrounding circumstances that influenced the narrative techniques.

- Narrative techniques: أساليب السرد
- Epistolary novel: رواية الرسائل
- Stream of consciousness novel: رواية تيار الوعي

علينا أن ننظر إلى هذه الأساليب السردية من وجهة نظر تاريخية.

We said that there are external reasons and internal reasons for the development of the narrative techniques.

Epistolary novel is a novel that relies on writing letters like Samuel Richardson's Clarissa.

في رواية الرسائل تكون الصفحات كلها عبارة عن رسائل

The stream of consciousness novel had something to do with the development of psychology. Novelists as parts of society are always affected and influenced by social events. That is why in the 20th century, the development of psychology affected the novel and the narrative techniques.

The stream of consciousness novel is a novel that depends on character analysis. In this type of novel, the character's head is reduced into a stage upon which the events are taking place. The stream of consciousness novels are interested in the dark motifs and impulses and emotions that are related to the mind and to the psychological aspects.

شيوع رواية تيار الوعي له علاقة بتطور ما يسمى علم النفس الحديث والاهتمام المتزايد بالعمليات الذهنية والفكرية المرتبطة معها

Now we're going to talk about a set of elements that affected the narrative techniques.

Writers are part of their societies so they influence and are influenced by their societies. Writers may borrow anything that is invented and use it in their novels.

The following factors are all important in assessing the significance of a particular narrative technique:

1. Changes in the dominant modes of human communication (think of the enormous effect that the telephone has had on us and that the

computer is having).

2. The effect of different world-views, philosophies, and ideologies (there is clearly a parallel between a belief in a God who sees every thing, and novelists' use of omniscient narrators; loss of belief in such a God seems to have been paralleled by a disenchantment with the possibilities of narrative omniscience).

3. Changes in readership patterns and habits (it is perhaps harder to feel intimate with a larger, more amorphous and anonymous set of readers - or to feel at ease with readers mainly of the opposite sex from oneself).

4. Larger changes in human life and modes of consciousness (think of the growth of urban living, of mass communication, of modem science and politics).

The omniscient narrator is a narrator that is all-knowing and that is not a character in the novel. He knows everything and narrates everything like a God who sees everything.

هنالك مجموعة من العوامل التي أثرت في الأساليب السردية:

1. The increased modern technological tools and gadgets that are used for communication. The invention of the telephone is the clearest example.

التبدلات التي تحدث في الأنماط السائدة في التواصل الإنساني كان لها تأثير كبير على أسلوب السرد في الرواية

2. There is an effect for the different ideologies such as Marxism, Capitalism and Globalization.

3. Changes in readership patterns and habits.

التغيرات في طرائق التلقي أو القراءة أثرت على مفهوم الكتابة

When you as a writer are writing something, you have to think about the readers. There are theories that are called receptionist theories.

4. Larger changes in human life and modes of consciousness.

التغيرات الكبرى في الحياة الإنسانية وتقدم نماذج الوعي تؤثر على تقنيات السرد

Summary
There are four factors that affected the narrative techniques:
1. The mode of communication
2. The effect of worldviews, philosophies, and ideologies
3. Readership patterns and habits
4. Changes in human life and in modes of consciousness

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Before moving on to characters, I want to ask you a few questions:
• Is the reliable narrator consistent or inconsistent?

Consistent

- What is the difference between the narrator and the narratee?

The narrator narrates or tells the story or the events of the novel.

The narratee is someone to whom the narrator narrates the story.

- The novel is addressed to us as readers

a. True b. False (true)

- The narratee is the one to whom the novel is addressed by the narrator.

a. True b. False (false)

Note:

- The novel is addressed to the reader.
- The narration is addressed to the narratee.

- What is an epistolary novel?

It is a novel that relies on the art of writing letters. An example is Clarissa.

- What are the two main factors that affected the narrative techniques?

Epistolary novel and stream of consciousness novel.

The epistolary novel emerged in the 18th century. The stream of consciousness novel emerged in the 20th century. An example about the stream of consciousness work is a movie entitled Hours starting Nicole Kidman. This movie is based on a novel by Virginia Woolf. If you read this novel you'll see how the author psychological explores the character.

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5. Character

When we talked about the difference between a novel and poetry, we said that the three main elements of the novel are: *actions*, *characters*, and *plot*. So "characters" is one of the main elements of a novel. We said that a poem could go without characters.

The first thing that you think about when you want to write a novel is to choose the names of your characters. When a writer chooses a name for a character in a novel, it is for a reason. The character must carry the qualities of the name itself. In real life for example a person named Amal would indicate hope and optimism.

It's true that the characters in a novel represent and reflect real life but they are not really human beings. That's why when you have a character you must analyze and criticize it and take a close look into the name of the character itself. The name of the character is very important and it tells something.

Is there any character without a name?

No. But you may choose one letter as a name of a character in a novel. On the other hand, in real life when you want to choose a name for a new-born baby, you have to choose a proper name. A German writer once chose the name S for his character.

We should realize that characters in novels aren't quite like real people. In everyday life we sometimes meet a person with an unusually appropriate name: the very tall person called Long or the radio engineer called Sparks. But the peculiar appropriateness of Heathcliff s name, for instance, is surely hardly ever met with in real life. And what about Dickens's Esther Summerson - who acts like a 'Summer sun' in Bleak House, dispelling the shadows with which the work is, initially, filled? Even 'Tom Jones' with its resolute lack of connotations or associations seems extraordinarily appropriate a name for the non-aristocratic, normally healthy hero of Fielding's novel.

A tall person for example would be named Long. An engineer would be called Sparks.

Heathcliff is the main character in **Wuthering Heights**. "Heath" means wild. "Cliff" means a rocky valley. Heathcliff together is translated into Arabic as (الجرف المتوحش). The name Heathcliff reflects the mentality and the nature of the character because we're going to know that Heathcliff is of a poor background. He loves this aristocratic girl very passionately but he cannot marry her because of these social class differences. Heathcliff is very hot-tempered and he gets angry easily. So his name reflects his identity as a character in the novel itself.

In the novel Wuthering Heights, Heathcliff's name (الجرف المتوحش) reflects the mentality of the character. *In novels, names are indicators of the identities of the characters.*

Another example is found in **Dickens's Bleak House** (البيت المظلم). In this novel, there is a character whose name is **Summerson**. The novel reflects the sufferings and the poor situations at the time. These sufferings seem to go away when the character Sunmerson comes into the scene. Within a time of despair and suffering, this character gives a flash of hope just as a summer sun. Summerson is a female character.

The name Tom Jones doesn't mean anything and it doesn't indicate anything. This is what the writer wanted because this character itself lives a very normal life. That is why he is given a normal name.

- Note:

From the previous paragraph, I only want you to memorize the

examples of Heathcliff, Tom Jones, and Sunmerson.

Write with me please:

The name Heathcliff suggests that the characters has a wild nature

هينكليف هو الرجل الغجري المتسكع الذي يعشق بجنون. نلاحظ أن اسمه غريب جداً فلا يمكن أن يوجد شخص في الواقع اسمه هينكليف او الجرف المتوحش، لكنه موجود في الرواية وله عواطف ومشاعر، وهذا ما يسمى فن رسم الشخصية characterization

The title Bleak House suggests poverty, sadness, and suffering.

Sunmerson is a name that reveals part of the character's personality. The character is like a glimpse of hope in a world full of suffering, agony, and darkness. Every time this character appears in the novel, it dispels the shadows and spreads hope wherever it goes.

We can say here that names are used symbolically because the name indicates the personality or the identity of the character.

- *Note*: in on of Alsaadawi's novellas we have a character named Sharifa. She is forced to sell her body. At the very end of the story, you find that Sharifa is better than all the people of religion and power. So sometimes it's the other way around.

- *Note*: a name that doesn't have a meaning like Tom Jones indicates a normal person who is unimportant in the novel. Some names have religious connotations such as William, Ibrahim, Khalil, Daniel, etc.

Keep in mind that choosing the name of a character is always done intentionally. The writer names his character for a purpose.

Let us try to explore some of the differences that exist between literary characters. We have some well-established terms to draw on initially: major and minor characters, flat and round characters, stock characters, 'types', caricatures, and so on.

We have different kinds of characters:
- *Main characters and secondary characters.*
- *Major characters and minor characters.*
- *Complex characters and simple characters.*
- *Flat characters and round characters:* Flat characters are only shown from one dimension. The flat character is a simple character such as a servant or a postman. Round characters are shown from different dimensions and perspectives. The main character must be a round character because you are looking into it from every angle and from every perspective.
- *Developing characters and static characters:* the developing character is the main character. Static characters are like flat characters.

Major character الشخصية الرئيسية
Minor or secondary character الشخصية الثانوية

Major characters are like Heathcliff and Catherine. Catherine is the heroine of the novel Wuthering Heights.

Secondary or minor characters are like Mr. Lockwood and Mrs. Lockwood.

Flat character شخصية مسطحة ذات بعد واحد

Rounded character is the opposite of the flat character.

A novelist may use a character for purposes quite other than 'characterization'; to say that there are different types of character is to say in effect that novelists portray human individuals for a range of different purposes. This is why it is a mistake always to talk about characters in a novel as if they were real people; clearly the novelist relies upon our knowledge of and reactions to real people in his or her creation of character, but characters are often created by novelists for purposes other than that of investigating human personality or psychology.

I want you to write something:

1. Flat characters are one dimensional characters or static characters seen from one dimension or perspective.

2. Round characters can be seen from different dimensions and we know everything about these characters. This is why we say:
- Most major characters are round, developing, or complex characters.
- Most minor characters are flat characters.
- Flat characters = static characters = stock characters = types = caricatures

Static characters: شخصيات سكونية لا تتطور ولا تتبدل وهي ذات بعد واحد

They can be used _to tell a story, to exemplify a belief, to contribute to a symbolic pattern in a novel, or merely to facilitate a particular plot development._

I want you to know that characters have roles. Every character is introduced into the novel for a certain purpose. There are different reasons for introducing characters.

1. They can be used to tell a story (narrator)

2. They can be used to exemplify a belief (يمثل أو يرمز لمعتقد ما) A character may exemplify knowledge or evil or ignorance. When I have a character that is called Scieny and he's a student that is searching for knowledge, his name exemplifies the search for knowledge. A thief or a killer exemplifies evil. A mother exemplifies peacefulness, love, care, and tranquility (الطمأنينة)

3. To contribute to a symbolic pattern. This is a character that helps the plot to move forward; it may connect between an episode and another between two scenes episode or a chapter and another chapter. It may be used to connect

يبتكر المؤلف أو الروائي منظومة من الرموز وهذه الشخصيات تسهم في بلورة هذا النظام الرمزي الموجود في الرواية. ما معنى النظام الرمزي؟

For example, Heathcliff represents the wild nature of a man because he's a poor man. He falls in love with an aristocratic girl. He is a symbol of poverty and wild nature.

4. To facilitate plot development لتسهيل تطور الحبكة

It means to push the plot forward because as we know, the plot is the backbone of the novel itself.

Summary

Characters are used for the following purposes:
1. To tell a story
2. To exemplify a belief
3. To contribute to a symbolic pattern
4. To facilitate plot development

Now we are going to talk about characterization.
- What is characterization?

It is the methods that we use in order to create characters.

What are the most important methods of characterization available to the novelist? There are four that are worth thinking about. First by description or report. In Conrad's Heart of Darkness we know a very large amount about Mr Kurtz before ever he appears before us; other characters in the novella have talked about him so much, have reported on his actions and beliefs, that we feel it is almost as if we had met him ourselves. The description of physical characteristics - and especially of physiognomy - is a very traditional means whereby the writer can suggest what sort of character with which we are faced.

The most important methods of characterization are:

الاستراتيجيات التي يستخدمها الروائي أو الكاتب في رسم الشخصيات

1. Description or report

Description: when you introduce a character, you describe his/her physical appearance and mental or psychological aspects.

Report: when you let other characters describe the character.

- Example of description:

Heathcliff is a man with brown eyes. He's very long (Physical

description)

Heathcliff is a very generous person. He gets angry easily (Psychological description)

• Do you think characterization is important? What is the most important character that characterization should be successfully to create?

The main character. It's very important to have successful characterization of the main character because the main character is the ultimate hero of the novel itself.

For example, in Conrad's Heart of Darkness the narrator narrates the descriptions of Mr. Kurtz before he enters in the events. So characterization began even before the character appeared.

Physiognomy: علم الفراسة

In physiognomy, you can know the personality of a person from his/her outer appearance. So the description is by the narrator or the writer. Report is by the other characters.

2. Action

Second, character can be established by action; when Insarov in Turgenev's On the Eve (1859) throws the insolent German into the water - an action of which his effete Russian companions are palpably incapable - then we learn something about him which pages of description could not give us.

(The example in this paragraph is not required; just read it.)

الشخصية أحياناً تقوم بفعل ما action وهذا الفعل يعبر كثيراً عن الشخصية، أي أن ما تقوم به الشخصية من أفعال هو ما يعبر عنها.

The action reveals the character's mood, thinking, morality, behavior, and sometimes the social background.

When a novelist creates a character that is doing an action, then he's revealing something about this character.

In the example of Insarov, the book is saying that we may know a little bit about a character but then one action happens and it reveals very much about the personality of the character.

3. Thought or conversation

Third, through a character's thought or conversation. Dialogue in particular is a wonderful way of revealing character: think how much we learn about Niiss Bates in Emma merely through her conversation - so much so that comment from Austen's narrator is really not needed. Modern novelists have shown how much we can learn about a character merely by following his or her thoughts; in Virginia Woolf's Mrs

Dalloway Clarissa Dalloway and Peter Walsh actually do very little, but by the end of the novel we feel that we know them quite well just by having followed so many of their thoughts.

And finally the novelist can use symbol or image to reveal and develop a character.

تُقدم الشخصية من خلال حديثها أو تفكيرها

When the characters talk about something, they reveal something about their way of thinking and their perspective of life.

Thought means the way of thinking.

- How do we know that the thought of a character reveals something?

A character may invoke something from the past or think ,about something in the future. The writer reveals this to us in order for us to understand more about the character itself. When we enter the character's mind, this is called thought.

For example, thoughts give us something more that actions in Virginia Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway. By the end of the novel we feel that we know the characters quite well from their thoughts.

We talked about dialog and conversation when two characters talk to each other. Now here we're talking about monologs والمونولوج الداخلي when a character is thinking or talking to himself/herself. These monologs may reveal to us more than any action would reveal.

- The dialog is external between two characters
- The monolog is internal within one's self

4. Symbol or image

- When you create an atmosphere around the character, it is called imagery.

- When you produce an optimistic character for example, it indicates something; it is a symbol.

For example, Summerson is a symbol of hope, Heathcliff is a symbol of wild nature.

Summary:
The four methods of characterization are:
1. Description or report
Description is by the author. Report is by the characters.
2. Action
3. Thought or conversation (monolog or dialog)
4. Symbol or image

Thank You