Literary

Texts

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(4+3)

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مؤسسة الأنوار التعليمية

let's study! English

Good morning!

Last time, we talked about the emergence of the novel and about the four major reasons why the novel became very popular. First is because people in the later eighteenth century could read and write, which means the rise of literacy. The second reason is printing technology; we transformed from handwriting to books. Thanks to that, authors were able to produce an endless numbers of copies. Finally, market economy which is capitalism helped the novel to become so popular all over the world. Then, we had a new element which is publishers, and we said that the relationship between authors and readers became private. Finally, the last factor is secularization and individualization; human beings in the modern society are no longer seen as part of a social group. Now, they are seen as separate lonely individuals, and that is why the novel saw that this is the opportunity to start talking about man. Normal people like you and not mythological creatures like ghosts or spirits. This is what we call realism "الواقعية".

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Narrative Technique

Now, we are going to talk about the major elements of the novel "عناصر الرواية". We said that the novel is a narrative "سرد", it could be long or short in which we have characters within a certain time and place, and we have what we call narrative technique. This means that the story is narrated by a teller or a narrator "الراوي". For example, if you are reading a story that says "At seven o'clock, this and this happened, etc." so by narrative technique, we mean the voice; this voice who you are listening to while you are reading the story is the narrator NOT the author.

الصوت يلي بكون عم يروي الأحداث داخل القصة يسمى الراوي وليس صوت الكاتب نفسه.

The narrator could be talking about himself like saying "I did so and so," or "someone did so and so." This means we

have two types of narrators, either subjective (this means the narrator is using the first person pronoun "I") as the short story in your book, or objective (this means the pronoun is using the third person pronouns "He, She, It"). you as a narrator have to choose whether to use the "I" point of view or the "He, She, It." Sometimes, the voice of the narrative could be one of the characters. This idea is very important.

إذا كان الراوي عم يروي قصة عن نفسه يستخدم الضمير"I" ، أما إذا كان عم يروي قصة عن غيره سوف يستخدم ."he, she it" انتبهوا جيدا أن هذا صوت الراوي داخل القصة، غير الكاتب. ممكن يكون حدا من الشخصيات عم يروي القصة.

This is the narrative voice, not to be confused with the voice with the author.

1. Most narrators are usually personified and named (مسمى). They are not human beings. In the story, we are going to read the main character as the narrator of the story.

2. In other case, narrators can be personified but anonymous (غير مسمى) "nameless"; and here they are human. In this case, we do not know who is talking. This is the most popular one.

3. Also, they might be not associated with any human voice, it could be the wind talking, or an animal, etc.

We will talk about two types of narrators. When somebody tells you a story, you ask yourself if he/she is telling the truth. So, the question will be:

1. Is he/she (narrator) reliable (موثوق) or unreliable (غير موثوق)؟

Can I rely on you and trust you?

هل يمكنني الاعتماد على الراوي والوثوق بقصته أو لا؟

2. Is he/she (narrator) consistent (متناغم أو منسق) or inconsistent (غير منسق)؟

These two types are connected because if the narrator is reliable, then he is consistent, and if he is unreliable, then he is inconsistent. Also, generally speaking, reliable/consistent is usually objective and unreliable/inconsistent is subjective.

The narrator can play a double-role, he can narrate the story and one of the characters at the same time. That is why the narrator cannot be trusted.

You have to learn these adjectives. You have to learn what is the meaning of each one of them. These adjectives go back to the narrator, they are all subjective.

a. Intimate (close to the characters)
b. Complicit (متواطئ)
c. Intrusive: from the verb intrude. يقحم نفسه فيما لا يعنيه

Because of these characteristics, we cannot trust the narrator. That does not mean he is lying. The narrator changes his mind according to the situation; sometimes he might be angry, lovely, etc.

What is the relationship between the narrator (who narrates the story) and the narratee (to whom the story is addressed). Do not confuse between the reader (you and me) and the narratee; in the story or the novel, we have a character talking to another character, this another character is the narratee. THE NARRATEE IS SUPPOSED TO LISTEN. Sometimes, we have two narrators within the same plot, one is talking and the other is listening.

Student: why there could be two narrators?
Professor: because they can both be witnessing the events.
Student: could the author be the narrator?
Professor: no, except in one case: when the author is writing autobiography (السيرة الذاتية) his own personal story. Because in this case, he is talking about real people, while the characters in the novel are imaginary including the narrator. The author is the creator of these characters.

We said at the beginning that the novel combines reality and imaginary. You read about the characters and you think that they can be real, they can be us, but they are not real.

Let us talk about two examples of narrative technique in modern novel.

1. **Stream of consciousness**: this means that the characters' mind transformed into a stage upon which events are taking

place. If I am a good writer, I can listen to your secrets hidden in your mind. The writer has the ability to spy on his characters.

معناها تيار الوعي، يعني الشخصية تتحدث وكأنها غائبة عن الوعي. أنا ككاتب أدخل إلى عقل الشخصية. هي وظيفة المؤلف بالعالم الحديث يلّي عايشين فيه. هي الفكرة كتير مهمة و بتجي بالفحص.

2. <u>Epistolary novels</u>: letter writing. This means that the writer, from the beginning of the novel till the end, is writing letters to people.

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Factors influencing narrative technique

1. <u>Changes in modes of human communication(technology)</u>: before we have telephones, people used to send letters by pigeons or by poster. Then technology began to develop from telephone, to cellphone, to social media. Novels should respond to these changes. I as a writer cannot ignore what is going on around me.

2. <u>Changes in world views and ideologies(philosophy)</u>: world views means from Marxism to Communism, to Capitalism, and Formalism, etc. these affect the type of the narrative technique I am using in my novel.

3. <u>Changes in methods of human relationships(social norms)</u>: people who live in the countryside communicate with each other in a different way than human in big cities. The author should be aware of the changes in these relationships, they change very rabidly. In your book, they say (the changes of pattern of habits or behaviors).

4. <u>Changes in modes of awareness(individual)</u>: life changes quickly, you have to be flexible or have the ability to understand what is going on around you.

لا تخافوا من شي، ركزوا على المصطلحات واحفظوهن وانتبهوا ع الفروقات والأضداد.

That is all for today
See you next week

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Today, we will talk about character and plot from page 30 to 33.

What is character?

Characterization means the art of portraying characters physically and psychologically or mentally. This means that the characters are introduced from outside (facial expressions for example) and from within. First, you choose a name for the character, the name is very important. For instance, the character in the story in your book called "*Summerson*" and the house called "*Bleak house.*" Bleak means dark, and the character "*Summerson*" who represents hope or light is living in a world dominated by darkness or bleakness. That is why the name of the character is important.

Then, you divide or classify characters. Characters can be:

1. Main شخصية رئيسية	1. Minor, Secondary ثانوية
2. Round "seen from different angles"	2. Flat سطحية
3. Developing متطورة	3. Static
4. Dynamic	4. Typical, Caricature

(main, round, developing, dynamic) are the characteristics of the *hero*. (minor, secondary, flat, static, typical, caricature) are the characteristics of *marginal characters*.

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The functions of the characters, why do we use characters?

a. **To develop plot**: we push the plot forward by allowing the character to speak.

b. **To tell stories**: We will not know what is going on without these characters talking.

c. **To enhance or develop symbolism**: the name "Summerson" helped the author develop symbolism because as we said this name represent hope. Her name by itself is symbolic, she stands for optimism.

d. <u>To symbolize and represent beliefs or doctrines</u>.
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Methods of characterization, how we introduce characters to the reader:

a. Through *description* (الوصف) and report: externally and internally. It is not enough to describe the character physical appearance only. Internal description is about the spirit, wishes, dreams, and ambitions. By report we mean the journalistic method, the narrator is like a journalist who is reporting about the character.

b. Through *action*: what the character does and think. I describe the character by observing what he is doing. مراقبة أفعال الشخصية Thinking is the internal action, the author goes through the mind of the character to describe to the reader what is going on inside the character's mind.

c. Through *conversations*: dialogue and monologue. We allow the character to think loudly by the stream consciousness technique.

d. Through the *use of images and symbolism*.
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What is plot? From our book page 33.

Let us start with a definition: a plot is an ordered, organized sequence of events and actions. Plots in this sense are found in novels rather than in ordinary life; life has stories, but novels have plots and stories. As EM. Forster puts it, a story is a narrative or events arranged in their time-sequence, whereas a plot is a narrative of events with the emphasis falling on causality. Not all commentators would agree that causality is the distinguishing feature, but all would agree that there is a necessary distinction to be made between the incidents about which we are told in a novel in their chronological order,

The difference between plot and story

Plot is the sequence of events arranged chronologically in which emphasis falls on what we call causality (مبدأ السردية)
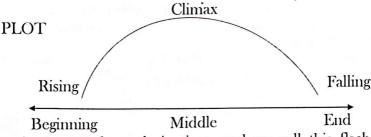
which is the connection between cause and effect. Novelists are the only ones who are capable of creating a plot. In the novel nothing can be left to chance; episodes are connected logically. The novel cannot exist without a plot; there are stories inside each novel.

Story is a series of events arranged spontaneously. Everyone can tell a story, we do not look for causality in the story but (بشكل عفوي).

PLOT

Climax

Rising

Falling

Beginning   Middle   End

If the plot moves forwards in time, and we call this flash forward. If the plot moves backwards in time, we call this flash back.

في مصطلحات مهمة لازم تحفظوهن ويلي هن:

Anachrony (التسلسل الزمني): ← Analepsis if the plot is backward.
← Prolepsis if the plot is forward.

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That is all for today
See you next week