

## LECTURE NO. 6

24.06.2023

### HELLO EVERYONE!

Last time we talked about the factors that affected the narrative techniques and we talked about the characters.

- What are the factors that affected the development the novel?

**Student:** there are external factors and internal factors: the internal are the epistolary novel and the stream of consciousness novel.

**Instructor:** exactly.

We said that the stream of consciousness novel is the novel that delves into the thoughts and the psychology and the minds of the characters because you are analyzing the character within the novel. In the stream of consciousness novel, the character's mind is reduced into a stage upon which the events take place.

- What did we say about the characters?

**Student:** the types of characters are flat, round, typical, etc.

**Instructor:** we also talked about major and minor characters. We said that we may have more than one main character and many minor characters.

We talked about round characters which are characters that may be seen from more than one perspective. Flat characters, on the other hand, are characters that are seen from one dimension.

We talked about Mr. Lockwood and Mrs. Lockwood in Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* and said that they are minor characters. At the beginning of the novel, we see two old man and woman sitting together and talking. When Mr. Lockwood is the narrator, Mrs. Lockwood is the narratee. When they switch roles, the narratee becomes the narrator. At the end of the novel, we see them again two old man and woman sitting and the story is finished.

We said that some characters have roles; they may be created to tell the story. The example of this is Mr. Lockwood and Mrs. Lockwood.

Another purpose for creating a character is to exemplify a belief or a symbol for something. The example of this is Heathcliff represents the man of a wild nature: he is a very hot-tempered man, he is of a poor

background, he falls in love with an aristocratic lady but he is not able to be with her.

We also talked about Summerson and said that this character comes and unveils the shadows of the suffering that is taking place in the novel. That is why she is a symbol of hope.

We also talked about Tom Jones as an ordinary man who is given an ordinary name. The name Tom Jones doesn't refer to anything.

We said that the process of characterization is the process of creating characters. The first step in characterization is to name the character. The name of the character is very important.

We said that the name of the character in fiction is different from the name of the character in reality because in reality it may not refer to anything and it may even refer to the opposite. Someone whose name is Kareem may not necessarily be generous. But in novels, the names are chosen to reflect something. The name of the character reflects the role of the character in the novel itself.

We also talked about the fact that characterization has many functions. It may be to connect one episode to another or to introduce a scene. The novel itself may consist of more than one chapter. Introducing a character may be to connect between two chapters or to introduce a certain scene.

Keep in mind that the character is introduced in a novel in order to have a certain role or function.

Now we are going to talk about the plot.

## Plot

The difference between the story and the plot:

Some may get the plot and the story mistaken. The novel has a story in it. The plot is: an ordered and organized sequence of events and actions.

The plot is a certain series of actions taking place in the novel.

The story means that this happened, this died, this went to work, this finished his meal, etc. The plot is the order within which the writer forms the novel. The birth of some character may be in the middle of the novel. According to the story, the character was born, and then lived, then died. But the plot may begin at the end of his life and then go backwards to tell us about what the character went through.

In order to have a successful novel, you have to have a successful

succession of events in order to draw the attention of the reader and to be complex and intricate in choosing the details. That is what the plot does for the writer and for the reader as well. So the order of the plot may be different from the order of the story that you as a reader would tell.

There is an emphasis on causality in the plot. Causality is very important in the plot. Causality (السببية) means that one event happens because of another one. The plot emphasizes the issue of causality. The story can be referred to as a series of events within a time span. This is another difference between the story and the plot:

Plot =» causality

Story =» span of time

Within the novel, there is more than one story but we only have one plot.

We will also talk about the *deviation from chronological progression*. Chronological progression (الترتيب الزمني) is when you have an action that is happening in a chronological order. It is the natural order of events: you woke up, got dressed, took the bus, and entered the university. This is the chronological order.

We have a deviation from the chronological order. We have something called *anachrony*.

☞ *Anachrony includes three patterns:*

- Analepsis
- Prolepsis
- Ellipsis

These three terms are important to you because you have a subject in the fourth year which is (تحليل نصوص). These three terms will be very important to you to learn and understand this subject.

Analepsis is moving backwards. It is when you narrate something from the past. It is flashback.

Prolepsis is the opposite of analepsis. Prolepsis is flashforward. It is to take an action that will happen in the future and put it at present narration time. For example, you are talking about a character as a writer. Suddenly you insert an incident that is happening in the future and that is not related to the events happening now. Then you would see happening maybe in the next episode or at the end of the novel.

Ellipsis is when you have an event or a period of time that is absent from the text. Example: in a TV series when they write "ten years later".

Ellipses have two types: marked ellipsis and unmarked ellipsis. In marked ellipsis the writer uses a succession of dots or full stops. So the writer in marked ellipsis tells you that there is something missing or deleted in order to draw your attention as a reader.

In unmarked ellipsis, the events happen in a natural order. Then there is a cut and another event begins arbitrarily. You feel that there is an omission but it is unmarked and you don't have the succession of dots. This unmarked ellipsis is used when there is something unimportant or something that is not of an artistic significance. For example, the character may be going through something significant and then suddenly you go into something very normal and ordinary. At the climax of something happening, you may have an omission.

All types of ellipsis are used for artistic significance and purpose for the writer and the reader. As a reader, it is exciting for you to find something hidden or deleted.

Another thing we will talk about is **duration** which is the difference between narrated time and narrating time. There is a difference between the actual time and the fictional time. The story is taking place during a period of time which is the set period for the events themselves. But there is a period of time during which the narration is taking place. When the narrator is narrating the events, this is another time within the pages of the novel itself.

Again, the time of the narration is different from the time of the actions themselves.

- The narrating time is the time that the narrator needs to narrate the events in the novel.

- The narrated time is the time span of the novel itself.

- The difference between these two is called duration.

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The last thing we will talk about is **frequency**. Frequency is the patterns of repetition. We will learn that there are four types:

- Singulative: When the events happened once and are narrated once. For example, when a character dies you only need to narrate this once. The same applies to when a character is born.

- Multiple: When we have a repeated event narrated many times. For example, we have some riots happening more than once and they are narrated every single time they happen. Another example is when the narrator narrates a dialog every time it takes place.

- Repetitive: when we have one event narrated many times. The writer may narrate a single event more than once because from the perspective of a certain narrator, this event may mean something, but another narrator may have another perspective. Small details may be added to the narration of the two narrators. Another possibility is that this event is an important one so the writer wants it to be narrated more than once.

- Iterative: it is when we have many events that are narrated only once.

We have also the idea of the plots that are based upon motifs or principles. Every plot needs a motif in order to be built upon it. It is related to the theme of the novel itself. If the novel talks about the search for something, then the motif of the plot is quest or search. If it is about a journey, then this is the motif. If it is about a mystery, the mystery itself becomes the engine for the plot to go forward.

This was a quick view of what we are going to deal with in the book. Let us begin on page 33.

## 6. Plot

**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 E.M. 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, and the actual narrating of these events in perhaps quite a different order in the novel.**

The definition of the plot: a plot is an ordered, organized sequence of events and actions. (Important for the exam)

Life has stories, but novels have plots and stories. This is because life has only a time span of events which are stories but in novels we have the chronological order which is the plot and the time span which is the story.

The following is very important to differentiate between a story and a

plot:

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.

The natural order is the order of the story as we would tell it to someone. But the order of the plot may be different according to what the writer decided.

Recent narrative theorists have performed a useful function in providing terms and concepts such that we can more accurately analyse how and why the plot of a novel deviates from strict and simple chronological progression.

- Chronological الترتيب الزمني
- Progression: development

This is to introduce what we talked about earlier which is anachrony.

First of all are a number of terms connected to what is termed order. The plot of a novel may move backwards and forwards in time, instead of proceeding steadily forward in chronological order. Any deviation from such strict chronological progression is termed an anachrony by narrative theorists, and there are a large number of such deviations possible. The most frequent are analepsis ( or flashback) and prolepsis ( or flashforward).

The word deviation is very important here.

An anachrony is any deviation from such strict chronological progression.

The types of *anachrony* are:

- Analepsis (flashback)
- Prolepsis (flashforward).

Prolepsis is used to make you anticipate something in the future. There is a novel entitled **In the Eye of the Sun** in which the main character is called Seif and there is a girl called Asia. The writer talks about the characters when the girl is 19 and the man is in his 30s. They begin to fall in love. Within their first encounter, suddenly we have two lines when we hear his voice as her husband in the future. Here you are surprised that there is a dialog from the future. He is blaming her for cheating on him even though this is their first encounter.

After talking about anachrony which includes analepsis and prolepsis, let us proceed to talk about ellipses:

Second, a novel's plot may include gaps, omissions, absences. These can be referred to collectively as ellipses - the same term as is used to refer to the succession of dots in a text that indicates that something has been omitted. Thus in *Wuthering Heights* we never get to know what Heathcliff does after his sudden disappearance and up to the time of his reappearance. This is what can be termed a (relatively) unmarked ellipsis - in other words, the text does not display the fact that something is not there.

Other ellipses may be marked - that is to say, we have our attention drawn to the gap by the text. A novelist typically uses a marked ellipsis to get the reader's imagination working: what has happened here? Why are we not told? An unmarked ellipsis usually involves the novelist's having skipped over a period of time during which nothing of artistic significance can be represented as having happened.

- Ellipsis (*singular*) ellipses (*plural*)

An example of ellipsis is the disappearance and reappearance of Heathcliff in *Wuthering Heights*. This is called an unmarked ellipsis. The unmarked ellipsis doesn't have a succession of dots.

In the marked ellipsis, we have a succession of dots that tells us that there is something omitted here.

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Now we go to *duration*:

Third, the element of duration is also of great significance. Nearly all works of prose fiction vary the relationship between narrating and narrated time.

- Narrated time (fictional time): the time span of a story or the period of which the text is set.

- Narrating time (actual time): the actual time a narrator needs to tell a story.

- Duration is the difference between the narrated time and the narrating time.

In the book, the duration is the varying relationship between:

- Narrating time and narrated time, or

- Fictional time and actual time, or
- Time span and time of narration

Fourth, narrative theorists also isolate the important topic of frequency, and note the following fundamental possibilities:

- (i) one event narrated once (singulative frequency)
- (ii) a repeated event narrated the same number of times it occurs (multiple frequency)
- (iii) one event narrated many times (repetitive frequency)
- (iv) many events narrated once (iterative frequency)

- An example of singulative frequency is when someone dies or is born.

- An example of multiple frequency is when you have dialogs happening many times and you narrate them according to the time they happen.

- A repetitive frequency is used with important and prominent events.

(i) is probably the most usual; many events that are depicted in a novel are recounted to the reader only once. But the same event can be recounted many times, as in (iii).

The singulative frequency is the most usual.

We can describe plots in two ways: either in terms of the dominant human activities which form the motivating principle in them or which are induced in the reader by them, or in more technical ways. In the first category we can include plots structured around conflict as in many ways the plot of *Nostromo* is; around mystery as are many of Dickens's novels; around pursuit or search as is *The Castle*; around a journey as is *Gulliver's Travels*; or, finally, around a test as is Joseph Conrad's *The Shadow-Line*.

The motifs within the plot may be the same motifs of the human beings because they are representative of human life.

- The plot may be structured around (based on) a conflict as in *Nostromo*.

- The plot may be structured around mystery as in many of Charles Dickens's novels.

- The plot may be structured around pursuit or search or quest as in



## **The Castle.**

- The plot may be structured around a journey as in Gulliver's Travels.

- The plot may be structured around a test as in Joseph Conrad's The Shadow-Line.

Plots are based upon motifs or principles. These motifs are:

- Conflict

- Journey

- Mystery

- Search

- Test

Thank You

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