

Early Twentieth-Century Fiction
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September 18, 2023. Joyce (2).

review

- ▶ difficulties
 - ▶ associative/metonymic style
 - ▶ time dilations and anachronies
 - ▶ the difficulties of childhood: what's going on?
 - ▶ allusiveness/historical density
 - ▶ taboo
 - ▶ ...
- ▶ genres (horizons):
 - ▶ *Bildungsroman*
 - ▶ *Kunsterroman*
 - ▶ school novel
 - ▶ historical novel
 - ▶ political novel
 - ▶ ...
- ▶ artistic formation:
 - ▶ sensory/linguistic acuity
 - ▶ remaking experience as form or fantasy
 - ▶ isolation is...good?

anachrony

—Admit. (65)

While he was still repeating the *Confiteor* amid the indulgent laughter of his hearers and while the scenes of that malignant episode were still passing sharply and swiftly before his mind he wondered why he bore no malice now to those who had tormented him. (69)

difficulties: who speaks?

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He had heard about him the constant voices of his father and of his masters, urging him to be a gentleman above all things and urging him to be a good catholic above all things. These voices had now come to be hollowsounding in his ears. When the gymnasium had been opened he had heard another voice.... And it was the din of all these hollowsounding voices that made him halt irresolutely in the pursuit of phantoms. He gave them ear only for a time but he was happy only when he was far from them, beyond their call, alone or in the company of phantasmal comrades. (70)

direct reported discourse

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—Dedalus, don't spy on us, sure you won't? (17)

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He felt his shoulders shaking as he murmured:

God bless my father and my mother and spare them to me! (15)

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—Good night, Willie dear! (84)

—Ay, bedad! And there's the Groceries sure enough! cried Mr Dedalus. You often heard me speak of the Groceries, didn't you, Stephen. (76)

layering: who speaks?

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—She too wants me to catch hold of her, he thought. (58, qtd. by “tangled_yarn”)

ventriloquism

From force of habit he had written at the top of the first page the initial letters of the jesuit motto: A.M.D.G. On the first line of the page appeared the title of the verses he was trying to write: To E—C—. He knew it was right to begin so for he had seen similar titles in the collected poems of Lord Byron. (58)

indirect reported discourse

To the sellers in the market, to the barmen and barmaids, to the beggars who importuned him for a lob Mr Dedalus told the same tale, that he was an old Corkonian, that he had been trying for thirty years to get rid of his Cork accent up in Dublin and that Peter Pickackafax beside him was his eldest son but that he was only a Dublin jackeen. (78)

[Direct version: *Mr Dedalus said, "I am an old Corkonian..."*]

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[Direct version: *Mr Dedalus said, "I am an old Corkonian..."*]

In her arms he felt that he had suddenly become strong and fearless and sure of himself. (85)

free indirect discourse

direct Stephen thought, "Suck is a queer word."

indirect Stephen thought that suck was a queer word.

free indirect Suck was a queer word. (8)

How strange to think of him passing out of existence in such a way, not by death but by fading out in the sun or by being lost and forgotten somewhere in the universe! It was strange to see his small body appear again for a moment: a little boy in a grey belted suit. (78)

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Stephen thought, “It is strange to see my small body appear again...”

and a step further

—It's very nice, Simon, replied the old man. Very cool and mollifying.

Every morning, therefore, uncle Charles repaired to his outhouse but not before he had creased and brushed scrupulously his back hair and brushed and put on his tall hat. (50)

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A general truth about Joyce...his fictions tend not to have a detached narrator, though they seem to have...

The Uncle Charles Principle: *The narrative idiom need not be the narrator's.*

Hugh Kenner, *Joyce's Voices* (Berkeley: U. of California Press, 1978), 16–18.

direct reporting verb + speech *verbatim*

indirect reporting verb + complementizer (*that, how, whether*) +
speech, shifted in tense and person to match matrix
clause

free indirect speech, shifted

U.C.P. (Uncle Charles Principle) no reported speech, but the
narrative uses a character's idiom to talk about them

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Discussion

Find a moment in the text in which the narration moves from a “neutral” idiom to a particular character's, either in free indirect discourse or with the Uncle Charles Principle. Discuss the effect of this shift in idiom on the meaning of the passage you have found.

irony

Verbal irony consists in echoing a tacitly attributed thought or utterance with a tacitly dissociative attitude. (272)

Deirdre Wilson and Dan Sperber, "Relevance Theory," in *The Handbook of Pragmatics*, ed. Laurence Horn and Gregory Ward (Oxford: Blackwell, 2004), 272.

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representation By his monstrous way of life he seemed to have put himself beyond the limits of reality. (77)

metarepresentation Stephen believed that his monstrous way of life seemed to have put him beyond the limits of reality.

2nd-order metarepresentation Joyce intends us to be skeptical of Stephen’s belief that his way of life, which seems monstrous to Stephen, has put him beyond the limits of reality.

next

- ▶ at least through chap. 3.