

Principles of Literary Study

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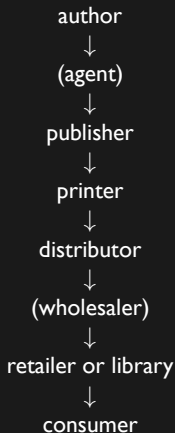
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Office hours: Thursdays 11:45–12:45 in MU 040A or by appt.

March 30, 2026. Austen (I).

review: narration

- ▶ “Scandal in Bohemia”: “first-person” or character-bound narration (CN)
- ▶ “The Contractors”: “third-person” or external narration (EN)
 - ▶ EN can have privileged access to multiple characters’ minds
 - ▶ because of EN, we know what Sandra and Sandie don’t
- ▶ narrative temporality
 - ▶ EN can move across the world in an instant
 - ▶ Ko chooses to narrate in the present tense (“Sandie lives”)
 - ▶ EN gives us objective retroversions to character “back stories”
- ▶ storytelling as global workplace organizing
 - ▶ individual troubles are linked as *social problems*
 - ▶ immediate causes (bad manager, bad boyfriend) reframed by the narrative’s knowledge of exploitative global tech corporations
 - ▶ fiction’s rivals: journalism, posting, gossip
 - ▶ fiction’s problem: it...isn’t real

where books come from: the supply chain



After John B. Thompson, *Book Wars: The Digital Revolution in Publishing* (Cambridge: Polity, 2021), 457. The first literary agents appeared in the late 1800s.

PRIDE
AND
PREJUDICE:
A NOVEL.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

BY THE
AUTHOR OF "SENSE AND SENSIBILITY."

VOL. I.

London:
PRINTED FOR T. EGERTON,
MILITARY LIBRARY, WHITEHALL.
1813.

- ▶ *First Impressions*, 1797 (rejected; “lop’t and crop’t”)
- ▶ *Pride and Prejudice...by the Author of “Sense and Sensibility”*
 - ▶ A. First ed., Thomas Egerton, 1813 (Jan.)
 - ▶ B. Second ed., Thomas Egerton, 1813 (Nov.)
 - ▶ C. Third ed., John Murray (1817)
- ▶ R.W. Chapman, Oxford ed. (1923 1st scholarly ed.)
- ▶ Oxford English Novels ed., 1970–71

books are things

“What a delightful library you have at Pemberley, Mr. Darcy!”

“It ought to be good,” he replied, “it has been the work of many generations.” (28)

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Mr. Bennet was...glad to invite him to read aloud to the ladies. Mr. Collins readily assented, and a book was produced; but on beholding it, (for every thing announced it to be from a circulating library,) he started back, and begging pardon, protested that he never read novels. (52)

discussion

It is a truth universally acknowledged , that a single man in possession of a good fortune, should be in want of a wife.

However little known the feelings or views of such a man may be on his first entering a neighbourhood, this truth is so well fixed in the minds of the surrounding families , that he is considered as the rightful property of some one or other of their daughters . (3)

- ▶ Who speaks in the beginning? How do you know?
- ▶ Why narrate this way?

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It is a truth universally acknowledged [by people who are wrong], that a single man in possession of a good fortune, should be in want of a wife.

However little known the feelings or views of such a man may be on his first entering a neighbourhood, this truth [“truth”] is so well fixed in the minds of the surrounding families [who are wrong, unlike those who are more discerning], that he is considered as the rightful property of some one or other of their daughters [who can't actually own property when they marry]. (3)

- ▶ Who speaks in the beginning? How do you know?
- ▶ Why narrate this way?

direct reported discourse

“Oh!” said Lydia stoutly, “I am not afraid; for though I *am* the youngest, I’m the tallest.” (7)

- ▶ reporting verb present
- ▶ quoted speech purports to be the original utterance
- ▶ in original tense and person

indirect reported discourse

She could only imagine however at last, that she drew his notice because there was a something about her more wrong and reprehensible...than in any other person present. (38–39)

- ▶ reporting verb present
- ▶ quoted utterance replaced by complement clause: *[that]*...
- ▶ complement clause in tense matching main clause
- ▶ complement clause matches main clause in person

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- ▶ **complement clause in tense matching main clause**
- ▶ **complement clause matches main clause in person**

(can rewrite as direct)

She could only imagine, “I draw his notice because there is something about me more wrong and reprehensible than in any other person present.”

free indirect discourse

They were at last obliged to accept the second-hand intelligence of their neighbour Lady Lucas. Her report was highly favourable. Sir William had been delighted with him. (7)

- ▶ no reporting verb
- ▶ context indicates main clause is reported discourse
- ▶ tense and person match discursive context

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(can rewrite as direct)

Lady Lucas reported, "Sir William was delighted with him."

(or indirect)

Lady Lucas reported that Sir William had been delighted with him.

room for rhetorical maneuver

Mr. Collins to be sure was neither sensible nor agreeable; his society was irksome, and his attachment to her must be imaginary. But still he would be her husband. (93)

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Charlotte reminded herself that he would be her husband.

irony: a framework

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.

He [Collins] meant to chuse one of the daughters, if he found them as handsome and amiable as they were represented by common report. This was his plan of amends—of atonement—an excellent one, full of eligibility and suitableness, and excessively generous and disinterested on his own part. (53)

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2nd-order metarepresentation (reader's)

The narrator *does not believe* Collins's own judgment that his plan to marry a Bennet daughter is excessively generous.

next

- ▶ keep reading, through vol. 2, chap. 9
- ▶ irony exercise: due Monday, April 6 at 10 p.m.