

Principles of Literary Study

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

April 2, 2026. Austen (2).

1740	Samuel Richardson, <i>Pamela</i> (London: Rivington and Osborn; traditionally the first English novel)
1775	Jane Austen b. Hampshire (clerical family)
1789	French revolution
1792	Mary Wollstonecraft, <i>Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> (London: J. Johnson)
1793	Britain declares war on France (soldiers billeted near Austen)
1797	Barbauld, "Washing-Day" JA completes "First Impressions," read in MS in her family circle; offered to Thomas Cadell for publication, rejected
1798	Wordsworth, "Tintern Abbey"
1804	Haitian independence
1811	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i> , by a Lady (Whitehall: Egerton; success)
1813	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> , by the Author of "Sense and Sensibility" (Egerton; success)
1814	<i>Mansfield Park</i> , by the Author of "Sense and Sensibility," and "Pride and Prejudice" (Egerton)
1815	<i>Emma</i> , by the Author of "Pride and Prejudice," &c. &c. (London: Murray)
1817	Austen d. <i>Northanger Abbey</i> ; and <i>Persuasion</i> (London: John Murray), with a "biographical notice" by brother Henry revealing authorship
1818	[Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley], <i>Frankenstein</i> (London: Lackington et al.)

review: embedding

- ▶ EN/CN can quote (explicitly or implicitly) another's text
- ▶ this *embedding* often comes with an attitude

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)

review: embedding

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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)

review: reported discourse

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

He [Wickham] asked Elizabeth in a low voice whether her relation were very intimately acquainted with the family of de Bourgh. (63)

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- ▶ indirect reported discourse
 - ▶ reporting verb present
 - ▶ quoted utterance replaced by complement clause
 - ▶ complement clause matches main clause in tense and person

Mrs. Bennet, with more perservance than politeness, protested he must be entirely mistaken. (96)

Charlotte the wife of Mr. Collins, was a most humiliating picture!— (96)

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

practice

- ▶ Find another example of free indirect discourse. Rewrite in direct and (bound) indirect forms.

many voices speak the novel

The novel orchestrates all its themes...by means of the social diversity of speech types and by the differing individual voices that flourish under such conditions.... This movement of the theme through different languages and speech types, its dispersion into the rivulets and droplets of social heteroglossia, its dialogization—this is the basic distinguishing feature of the stylistics of the novel.

M.M. Bakhtin, “Discourse in the Novel,” in *The Dialogic Imagination*, trans. Caryl Emerson and Michael Holquist (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1981), 262–63.

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.

Whenever any of the cottagers were disposed to be quarrelsome, discontented or too poor, she [Lady Catherine] sallied forth into the village to settle their differences, silence their complaints, and scold them into harmony and plenty. (127)

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[representation](#) Lady Catherine has the right to tell people how to live.

[metarepresentation](#) Lady Catherine *believes* Lady C. has the right to tell people how to live.

[meta-metarepresentation](#) Austen disapproves of the fact that Lady C. believes that she has the right to tell people how to live.

irony as (mental) flexing

‘I shall not say you are mistaken,’ he replied, ‘because you could not really believe me to entertain any design of harming you; and I have had the pleasure of your acquaintance long enough to know, that you find great enjoyment in occasionally professing opinions which are in fact not your own.’ (131)

who narrates?

‘My dearest Lizzy will, I am sure, be incapable of triumphing in her better judgment, at my expence, when I confess myself to have been entirely deceived in Miss Bingley’s regard for me....’ (113–14)

- ▶ What does Jane’s letter do?

direct discourse does the trick sometimes

‘In vain have I struggled. It will not do. My feelings will not be repressed. You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you.’ (142)

next

- ▶ irony exercise due Monday evening
- ▶ keep reading, through pt. 3, chap. 9