



Examining the effects of focalization in the novel "The Papers" based on the theory of Girard Jeanette

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Abstract

Focalization is one of the characteristics of the point of view in the narrative, which is defined based on the speech, emotional reaction and actions of the characters. French structuralist theorist and critic Gerard Genet was able to present a new division in this field. He raises the point of view and time as two important categories in narration to prove the category of who narrates? And from whose point of view is the story told? And of course, the discontinuity of time that governs this narrative spectrum has caused the story to be narrated in different positions by multiple narrators and from different angles. And therefore, the dominant form and shape of the angle of view in it, unlike classic stories, is constantly fluctuating and changing. Based on analytical-descriptive method, this research tries to investigate the methods of focalization in the novel "The Offices of Papers" by Jalal Burgess. Based on the results of this research, the author uses the internal focalization technique to show the space of the story from the internal approach and penetration into the inner world of the narrator characters (Ebrahim Al-Waraq, Inner Voice, Laili Dokhtar Parvesgah, Mrs. Narda) and the external focalization technique in order to process and construct The narration is based on the information and the limited horizon of the narrator (Mahmoud Al-Shamousi) and zero focalization to make the reader aware of the behavior, speech and mental aspect of the characters of the story through the technique of the knowledgeable narrator, as well as the technique of multiple focalization as an approach to create a dialectical relationship between the narrator and The elements of the story have been used And he has used these aforementioned techniques in order to create motivation, question and ambiguity in the mind of the audience and increase his knowledge of the inner world of the narrators.

Keywords

focalization, Girar Jinit, Jalal Burgess, Defater al-Waraq.

Introduction

The art of storytelling is shaped by the dialogue, emotional reactions, and behaviors of the characters within the narrative. Gérard Genette, a distinguished French structuralist and literary critic, offered a novel categorization that diverged from earlier scholars and critics. He posited that narrative perspective and temporal setting are crucial elements in determining the identity of the narrator and the angle from which the story is told. Despite this, the nonlinear progression of time in narrative allows for multiple narrators and viewpoints, resulting in a fluid and evolving narrative perspective, a stark contrast to the static perspectives found in traditional stories (Zeituni, 2002: 41& Genette, 1992:71)

Methodology

This analytical and descriptive study seeks to explore the diverse narrative strategies and techniques employed in "Notebooks of the Booksellers," a novel by the esteemed Jordanian author Jalal Barjas. Published in 2020 by the Arab Studies and Publications Foundation in Lebanon, the novel gained a broad readership across the Arab world. In 2021, it was awarded The International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF), recognizing it as the year's outstanding literary work. Spanning from 1947 to 2019, the novel's events transpire in both Amman, Jordan's capital and Moscow. The narrative arc, encompassing events and characters' recollections over 72 years, is meticulously structured into seven chapters and 36 sections, totaling 366 pages. (Berjis,2019). It is written in modern and articulate Arabic, employing compelling and eloquent prose that engages the reader. The novel's inclusion in this study is attributed to its wealth of narrative devices and viewpoints, the variety of characters with their distinct ideologies and perspectives, and the depth it offers. It mirrors the breakdown and segmentation of a network driven by profit and bureaucracy, which targets marginalized communities and the vulnerable, alongside the escalation of social prejudice and class disparity within society. Moreover, it exposes the plight of urban life, the pervasiveness of discrimination, the hardships of the

disadvantaged, and the chaos of the current state of affairs. It also delves into the formation of characters' beliefs and behaviors, shedding light on the complexities of the modern human struggle amidst patronage and the corrupt dealings of political figures and inept authorities, thus uncovering the stark reality of these tumultuous times.

Results

Following an examination of the theoretical aspects of the research and to elucidate and fulfill the goals of the present article in its practical segment, the analytical constructs of narrative methods were utilized, and categorized into four distinct forms of narration. These forms, as employed within the novel, are internal narration, external narration, zero focalization, and multiple narration. In the subsequent text and comprehensive abstract, we shall provide a succinct and informative overview and elucidation of these four forms of narration, ensuring a proper and fitting alignment with the research objectives: The first form, internal narration, positions the narrator's viewpoint as congruent with that of a character within the narrative, with the first-person singular pronoun being the prevailing mode of expression. Adopting an internal viewpoint, the narrator relates the story from the characters' inner perspectives. Consequently, the characters themselves become the storytellers, recounting events from their unique standpoints, and employing their linguistic styles, ideologies, and viewpoints. Figures such as Ibrahim Al-Warraaq, Mrs. Narda, and Leyli, the girl raised in an orphanage, serve as illustrations of individuals who convey the narrative's occurrences through their voices. The narrator is involved in the story's events. In external narration, the narrator possesses less knowledge than the characters. This narrative approach is from the viewpoint of an external, unbiased observer who both witnesses and recounts the events. The perspective here is external, with the narrator limiting their descriptions to what they observe or hear. The third person is the dominant pronoun, and the narrator remains uninvolved in the story's occurrences. The relaying of information about Mahmoud Al-Shamosi, Ibrahim Al-Warraaq's great-grandfather, adheres to this storytelling method. In zero focalization, the author utilizes a technique where the narrator's understanding of the story's events surpasses that of the characters. This narrator is omniscient, not a character within the story but aware of all aspects from their vantage point. They provide the reader with the most

intricate details and explore the characters' minds, emotions, and innermost thoughts, uncovering their secrets and exposing the concealed depths of the characters to the reader. The narrator remains detached from the novel's proceedings. Finally, multiple narration is employed, combining various narrative techniques within a single narrative framework. Instances of this have been noted in the novel under examination. The novel's content features a diverse array of functions, striving to create a dynamic and dialectical relationship between the narrator and the narrative technique, within the context of its engagement with its fictional characters.

Conclusion

A key finding of this research is the employment of four narrative modes by the narrator within the story, which, by entrusting the narrative viewpoint to the characters, endeavors to bridge the gap between fantastical occurrences and real-world societal issues, illustrating the plight of the oppressed. It grants the principal characters—Ibrahim Al-Warraq, the inner voice, Leyli from the orphanage, and Mrs. Narda—the chance for revelation and storytelling, allowing them to contribute to the novel's imaginative framework through the use of the fourfold narrative technique. Furthermore, the narrator seeks to captivate the reader by sowing intrigue and ambiguity, providing deeper insights into the characters' external and internal worlds, and prompting further exploration of the novel. This is designed to convey the author's intended message and impact to contemporary readers, future generations, and leaders of developing societies, passionately advocating for the dignity of all individuals, particularly the disadvantaged and exploited.

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