The concept of Narrative Artistry of Ernest Hemingway and Alice Munro in the Select short stories

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ABSTRACT

The present study deals with Narrative Artistry or technique in the short stories of both Ernest Hemingway and Alice Munro. Narrative Artistry means the analysis of the various facets of the story such as setting, character, point of view, atmosphere, symbolism, style, theme, etc. To put it in a nutshell, it is a sequence of events presented to the readers by the authors in order to convey the themes in the concern literary work irrespective of the genre. However, the literary achievements of both authors in the literary works cannot be exaggerated. The authors seek to portray many social and moral issues focusing on social criticism of people’s behaviour when their psychological aspects are affected. This article particularly focuses on bringing out the similar narrative techniques followed by both Hemingway and Munro in order to emphasise the significance and social concern they intended to convey their readers through their short stories. It also focuses on explaining how narrative techniques and point of views plays a vital role in bringing out the exactness of the literary works.

Key Words: Narration, viewpoint, significance, thematic concern, etc.,

The term ‘narrative’ has inconsistent meanings. The term ‘narrative’ is derived from the Latin word ‘narrare’, which means ‘relate’ and ‘gnaerus’ which means ‘to know’.
Hence, ‘narrative’ in over-all refers to relate in order to know and it relates a sequence of actions. Narrative is present in all events and in all facets of day to day life, Barbera Hardy states narration as a ‘primary act of mind’ and further describes that, “we all dream in, recall, anticipate, hope, anguish, trust, doubt, plan, revise, criticise, construct, gossip, learn, hate and love by narrative” (31).

The viewpoint from which a story is seen and narrated are various, they may all be grouped into two types, the internal and external. A story which is seen internally is narrated in the first person viewpoint by one of its partakers or characters, on the other side a story which is understood externally is described in the third person viewpoint by a mind standoffish from the actions portrayed.

Thus, based on these characteristicsthis article tries to bring out the narrative artistry of both Ernest Hemingway and Alice Munro, which will ultimately showcase the unique viewpoints of both the authors.

The narratives of both Ernest Hemingway and Alice Munro are both distinctive in its principle, as it signifies the theme and major concern in which the authors focusing. The narratives also include anticipation, sentiments, traumatic instances and social message through it. Although, Ernest Hemingway and Alice Munro has different point of views, in their stories, this article showcases the third person point of view, which is seen similar in the literary works of both the authors. The third person point of view technique has been used by both the authors, in order to make an open slot for an unrestricted interpretation on every single facet of each character, provided that the space for external criticism is been well focused.
The usage of the third person narrative technique also allows the readers to step into the shoes of every single character during crucial circumstances, a source of desire which becomes spoiled by the first person narrative. Many critics and readers choose the third person narrative to the first, as evidently exposed in the quote: “If certain theorists are demonstrating the subjectivity of much third person fiction, others are obscuring our notion of first person narration” (Richardson 10).

However, the third person narratives also provide the suppleness to the author, and so it remains as the most frequently used narrative mode in literature. In the third person narrative style, each and every character is referred to by the narrator as “he”, “she”, “it”, or “they”. In the third person narrative approach, it is evident that the narrator is just an indefinite being or uninvolved individual that portrays the story, however not a character of any category within the story which is being narrated.

The two selected short stories “The Doctor and the Doctor’s Wife” by Hemingway and “Labor Day Dinner” by Munro are the two chosen short stories which showcases the significance of third person narrative style. The short story “The Doctor and the Doctor’s Wife”, highly concentrates from the viewpoint of the main character, Dr. Henry. The narrator is away from the events and confines himself to the limited viewpoint of the characters. This can be exposed by the way the narrator monitors him and directly points out the man’s point of view: “Nick’s father always assumed that this was what would happen, and hired the Indians...” (91-92”), “He was very fond of it. Then he heard the voice of his wife from the darkened room.” (94)
Alice Munro on the other hand also used third person narration to highlight the story “Labor Day Dinner”. This third person viewpoint is about the female character named Roberta and her daughters. The story is narrated from Roberta’s viewpoints, however, the presence of the narrator is felt when the narrator registers the conversation between the characters, “George came in and said, “Is that what you’re wearing?” “I thought I would, yes. Doesn’t it look all right?” (186).

Although Munro, tries to make use of third person narration in few of her short stories, the narrator of her works does not completely act subjective in the third person point of view, however, through a brief analysis of the afore mentioned two short stories one can clearly understand the significance of the third person narrative artistry. It emphasises the soul intention of the authors who tries to bring forth it to the readers. All of Hemingway’s works shows a significant characteristic feature.

Alice Munro, on the other hand, has combined a traditional feel in her description, which progressively develops to expose an evolution of revealing feature. She forms the story practically by following an architectural way, slowly and carefully.

Both Hemingway and Munro have written an extensive numbers of literary works representing a number of short stories. There is an alarming requirement for researches and studies on both Hemingway and Munro because of the influence their works cause in the social order and for their wide collection of short stories. In this way, through the narrative study carried out in this article, it attempts to support the distinction of both Hemingway and Munro as best authors in the genre of short stories and its vital history.
REFERENCES:


