

Literary Texts II 6

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HELLO EVERYONE!

Today, we are going to talk about the **plot** which is the most important element in the novel and in your book.

The plot

First of all what is the meaning of plot?

It is a way to connect between one episode and another, and it is different from story. Before we talk about the plot, we need to know the difference between the plot and the story.

What is the difference between plot and story?

A plot is a series of events arranged chronologically in time in which emphasis is based on causality.

Causality لا يوجد عشوائية. logic: يعني السببية، يعني

The story is collection of episodes according to time sequence.

So, the plot is something related to the novel, only an author or a professional novelist can create the plot whereas anyone can tell stories. We tell stories every day.

Stories are arbitrary which means there is no logic, whereas the plot is not arbitrary; it is logic.

In the novels you cannot connect between one episode and another illogically. Whereas in the story you can jump from one episode into another without logic, like if you say: *You know what I am hungry, but then I took the exam and I am afraid I didn't do well.* In the novel you cannot do that. One episode should be connected with the other logically.

إذن، ليس هناك مجال للاجتهاد الشخصي في الرواية. الرواية مُحكمة.

The story told illogically, although we have collection of stories in

the novel all the time.

Let's read in your book:

A plot is an ordered, organized sequence of events and actions. Plots in this sense are found in novels rather than in ordinary life; life has stories, but novels have plots and stories.

A story is a narrative or events arranged in their time-sequence, whereas a plot is a narrative of events with the emphasis falling on causality.

Recent narrative theorists have performed a useful function in providing terms and concepts such that we can more accurately analyse how and why the plot of a novel deviates from strict and simple chronological progression.

The plot always moves forward; we have the beginning and the middle and the end. It is like a straight line.

1. Sometimes the plot can be backward. It is called anachrony. Sometimes it is prolepsis; which means flash forward, and sometimes it is analepsis. Analepsis means to remember the past, you can call it flashback.

First of all are a number of terms connected to what is termed order. The plot of a novel may move backwards and forwards in time, instead of proceeding steadily forward in chronological order. Any deviation from such strict chronological progression is termed an anachrony by narrative theorists, and there are a large number of such deviations possible. The most frequent are analepsis (or flashback) and prolepsis (or flash-forward).

2. A novel's plot may include gaps, omissions, and absences. These can be referred to collectively as ellipses the same term as is used to refer to the succession of dots in a text that indicates that something has been omitted.

We have two types of ellipsis: marked ellipsis and unmarked ellipsis.

The unmarked ellipsis is when the text doesn't display the fact that something is not there. Like when you find in the novel a phrase like: (*ten years later*). The writer didn't tell the reader what happened in

these years. This is what is called unmarked ellipsis.

The other type is the marked ellipsis. It is when we have our attention drawn to the gap by the text.

A novelist typically uses a marked ellipsis to get the reader's imagination working: what has happened here? Why we are not told?

An unmarked ellipsis usually involves the novelists having skipped over a period of time during which nothing of artistic significance can be represented as having happened.

3. We have the element of duration; which means الديمومة. It is a relation between narrated and narrating time.

Let's read from your book the third element:

Third, the element of duration is also of great significance. Nearly all works of prose fiction vary the relationship between narrating and narrated time.

Narrated: هي الأحداث الموجودة بالرواية.

Narrating: is the summary of the narrated events.

4. The last element is frequency. It is related to repetition.

Fourth, narrative theorists also isolate the important topic of frequency, and note the following fundamental possibilities:

So, we have four fundamental possibilities in the frequency.

1. **Singulative frequency:** it is when one event narrated once.

إذا عم نحكي على شخص مات. هية مرة وحدة. you cannot die twice.

2. **Multiple frequency:** it is when many events narrated as many times as they occurred.

مثل مظاهرات الشوارع. حوادث متكررة many events.

3. **Repetitive frequency:** it is when one event narrated many times.

يكون حدث مهم أو بارز .. مثل دخول السجن.. الكاتب يذكر القارئ عدة مرات بهذا الحدث مثلاً.

4. **Iterative frequency:** it is when many events narrated once.

This is all about the plot.

Now we are going to move to the structure.

The structure

The structure is related to the plot. They are closely related to each other. The structure is the whole organization of the literary work.

كاتب الرواية يجب أن يكون لديه شعور بالتنظيم الكلي لهذه الرواية. وهذا هو ال
structure أو البنية.

Structure involves plot, thematic, and form: it refers to our sense of a novel's overall organization and patterning, the way in which its component parts fit together to produce a **totality**, a satisfying whole.

Very often the chapter and section divisions made by the author impose a structure upon a work - or bring out one that is implicit but not overt in it already.

So, how can we see the structure?

We can see the structure when the novel divided into sections and chapters.

Let's read from the book:

Structure and plot are closely related to each other, and it might have made sense to include this section as a sub-section of 'Plot'. But the term 'structure' does, properly, refer to something rather different from plot. If we can think of the plot of a novel as the way in which its story is arranged, its structure involves more than its story, encompassing the work's total organization as a piece of literature, a work of art.

Next week we are going to talk about setting, theme and symbol and images. If you have any questions about plot, please do ask next week.

«THANK YOU»



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