

NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES IN WRITING

A. THE PRESENTATION OF SPEECH

- **Free Direct Speech**

"He's drunk now," he said. (with quotation marks and reporting clause)

"He's drunk every night." (without reporting clause)

"What did he want to kill himself for?"

"How should I know."

- **Direct Speech** (= the norm for the presentation of speech)

He said, "I'll come back here to see you again tomorrow."

- **Free Indirect Speech**

1. He would return there to see her again the following day.

2. I tried to make the interview as brief as was consistent with neither hurting his feelings nor arousing his doubts. Yes, I would devote all my life to the child's welfare.

3. Here, he heard a violent uproar below stairs, and soon after a female voice begged him for heaven's sake to come and prevent murder.

- **Indirect Speech**

1. He said that he would return there to see her the following day.

2. Parents asked me why I hadn't considered homework.

- **Narrative Report of Speech Acts**

1. He promised to visit her again.

2. Peter promised to return as soon as possible.

B. PRESENTATION OF THOUGHT

= stream of consciousness writing ("Bewusstseinsstrom")

aim: author allows the reader to see things from a character's point of view

- **Free Direct Thought**

1. Does she still love me?
2. Her ear too is a shell, the peeping lobe there. Been to the seaside. Lovely seaside girls. Skin tanned raw. Should have put on coldcream first make it brown. Buttered toast. O and that lotion mustn't forget.

- **Direct Thought**

1. He wondered, "Does she still love me?"
2. He asked himself what is a woman standing on the stairs in the shadow, listening to distant music, a symbol of?

- **Free Indirect Thought**

1. Did she still love him?
2. She had consented to go away, to leave her home. Was that wise? ... In her home anyway she had shelter and food ...
3. He picked up the dagger and drew the beautiful thing lightly through his fingers. It was sharp, polished, dangerous, marvellously integrated and sweetly proportioned.
4. Three years. Long in the aggregate, though short as they went by. And home was very dear to me, and Agnes too - but she was not mine - she was never to be mine. She might have been, but that was past.

- **Indirect Thought** (= the norm for the presentation of thought)

He wondered if she still loved him.

- **Narrative Report of a Thought Act**

1. He wondered about her love for him.
2. She tried to weigh each side of the question.