Chapter V, Builds a house from Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe

The text is an extract from the famous novel Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe.
Right from the start, the intelligent reader imagines that the protagonist Robinson Crusoe is going to build an house in the unknown island.
The extract is arranged into 11 paragraphs and it has the shape of a journal where the protagonist records all that happens in his daily life.
The novel has a first person narrator (Robinson Crusoe) and the reader identifies himself in the protagonist. Each paragraph conveys in a chronological order what Robinson is doing on the island.
The extract is to be considered the most famous part of the novel: Robinson tells he has been shipwrecked “during a dreadful storm” and he has come in an island near the mouth of the Orinoco river.
The first paragraph conveys the effect of isolation, the language conveys this idea with adjectives like “poor” and “miserable” and the expression that concludes the paragraph “and myself almost dead”. The expression “dreadful storms” exalts the position of victim of the protagonist, Robinson calls this unknown island “Island of Despair” and it underlines the affliction of the character.
In the second paragraph the protagonist’s fair are listed. He conveys the idea of local inhabitants like savages: it is the prejudice of the superiority of the English culture. It is a colonialist attitude, indeed the novel was considered really successful and met the needs and tastes of XVIII century readers that could satisfy their curiosity about foreign distant places that they heard of.
Indeed the description of the island of the protagonist improves the reader’s attention conveying the idea of a dangerous island full of frights and populated by wild and ferocious creatures and savages, he tells “I slept in a tree for fear of wild creatures”.
The third paragraph underlines the skills of survival of the protagonist. In this paragraph the protagonist describes the actions he is doing to survive like producing utensils and instruments or looking for food.
In the previous paragraphs the protagonist was described by his feelings, now the reader can characterize the protagonist also by his actions. The spirit of entrepreneur, the details about the environment and the solving skills conveys the idea of a self-made man, and this image respects the puritan ethic of colonialism. He spent the entire month of October using his skills of survival and describing the environment the reader understands that the island is an overcast territory, indeed it is situated near the mouth of the Orinoco river (Venezuela). The protagonist concludes the chapter telling how he is building a fortress made of timber and fences that would become his new house.