The purpose of the present text is to analyse the first war report of Mr. Rudyard Kipling’s “The war in the mountains”.

This war report is entitled “The roads of an army”. The presence of the indefinite article “an” allows the reader to suppose he is going to read about an army different from the British one.

The reporter uses the narrative techniques of showing and telling, but the second one is more used. The presence of the narrative technique of showing gives to the text more credibility because it creates in the reader’s mind a realistic visual image. The use of the narrative technique of telling allows the reader to create a mental image from the reporter’s impressions.

In the first part of the text, the writer reports the words of his guide. In these words, the guide explains what are the three fronts and he provides information about the mountains around them. After a dialogic sequence, it follows a sequence in which the reporter tells his impression. For example, after the explanation of the Italian fronts by the guide, he connotes negatively the fronts with the words “evil-looking”, “sound of guns debating ponderously”.

The guide only gives a piece of information about the fronts and some of the mountains on which the Italians fought. At the contrary, the reporter gives his judgement. The presence of two points of view, one objective and one subjective, allows the reader to create a vivid image of what is happening. The reader, who probably does not know the characteristics of the Italian front, is inclined to share the reporter's point of view while the objective information provided by the guide gives spatial coordinates, conveying a realistic effect.