

Narrative techniques are the methods writer use to tell their stories. When analyzing a novel, it is important to identify such techniques in order to shed light on the ways they function in the story. In *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, Mohsin Hamid, uses monologue. It is worth exploring how narrative techniques have their validity to theme and message conveyed by the novelists.

It is believed that narrative technique has a vital role to express the temperament of the characters and therefore the analysis of how narrative technique expresses the characters' temperament helps better making sense.

Hamid uses single person monologue using „You“ for his second novel, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* where the novelist talks about Pakistan's external problem with other nations such as U.S.A,. The novel deals with attitudes of U.S.A and other Christian countries toward Muslims and Islam especially after the attack on WTC Tower of Newyork.

The narrative technique monologue is a long uninterrupted speech of a character directly addressing another character or the audience. The use of monologue facilitates M. Hami's viewpoints to go across the reader effortlessly.

The story is too simple and straight forward and it includes hardly three to five characters. The plot is even more linear to add more realistic flavour. Changez's reflection toward American society is different before 09/11 attack. He believes in American dream life as a parameter of success. While he comes to America he is a typical middle-class Pakistani man being happy to forgetting admission in Princeton and also getting scholarship which was a financial aid to him. After graduation he gets a good job at a famous bank Underwood Samson and he gradually makes his position more powerful.

Yet Changez's Pakistani roots do not become hindrance for his development. After the attack on the WTC, he heard about how Pakistanis are being beaten, about the FBI raiding on mosques, about Muslims men disappearing but yet he remains pragmatic and unmoved.

The connection to the monologue and the thematic part of the novel is worth being analysed. The narrative strategy of the novel is a dramatic monologue which is common to stage plays and films but in the case of the novel, it is the most striking element. Actually in the course of monologue he does not only provide insight into his own character but also correlates with the essence of the novel.

Changez communicates to an American who despite occasional interruptions, is never actually heard. By structuring the novel as a **one-sided conversation**, M. Hamid accomplishes a few things.

1. He symbolically makes America „**Hear the other side of the story**“ or „**Shut your mouth, let me speak**“. As for Changez's experience as well it is also general belief that, America has its own attitudes, **kind of fundamentalism-Capitalism**, which makes it blind to the human toll of its foreign policy (Chile, Iraq, Vietnam). By addressing his story to an American, Changez attempts to cut through that single-mindedness and adds a new dimension to the American's view of 9/11, the War on Terror, and what it means to be from a country that America oppresses.

2. M.Hamid puts the reader in the Americans' position. Instead of giving any particular conclusion, the novelist tries the reader to involve in to have her/him ponder over the attitude and policies of America. M.Hamid begins and ends every chapter by having Changez address the present scene in Old Anarkali. The use of this particular facet of the dramatic monologue is interesting since not

every speaker usually interrupts himself to address the audience. M.Hamid's **structure continually reminds the reader that is hearing a one-sided story.**

3. Except in the final two chapters, you can find that **the mutual suspicion of Changez and America is never clear.** The writer accelerates the pace of the story by making his characters literally move. Their walking creates a new sense of urgency. This is coupled with remarks such as

"It seems an obvious thing to say, but you should not imagine that we Pakistanis are all potential terrorists, just as we should not imagine that you Americans are all undercover assassins." (The Reluctant Fundamentalist, Penguin Books, p.209)

The suspicion is clearly heightened here. In addition to this there are a few examples of personification and metaphor which have a valid connection with the subject of the novel.

Erica: She represents America. Every movement of America is personified with the movement of Erica. Like her country she is wealthy, intelligent and glamorous. Just like America accepts Changez before 09/11 but rejects him after the event, she does the same thing to him. Erica is not happy when Changez becomes himself but when he tries to be like a Christian man, she becomes happy. M. Hamid may be showing us that Changez cannot be accepted in America without pretending to be someone or something that he is not. Is it also suggesting that America cannot let its Christian heritage go and accept multiculturalism?

⇒ Changez can also be interpreted with the Pakistani equivalent of „Genghis“-connecting Changez to the great Mongolian conqueror Genghis Khan. Who attacked on Muslim civilization?

⇒ Underwood Samson- United States-it is a microcosm of America's ruthless pursuit of money and efficiency.

The narrative technique of the novel also is a great advantage to the purpose of the novelist. M.Hamid has clarified that he wanted his reader to feel the external conflict they experience in America through *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and he knew that it is not possible unless readers get the insight of the protagonist. The use of monologue, however, also allows the writer a level of control over the reader with regard to the core themes of identity and fundamentalism as well as effectively drawing the reader into the issue of American involvement in the political and financial affairs of other nations in particular those within the Asian region. The American is not given voice to refute the implied accusations and as such M.Hamid is able to deliver his argument unhindered. Thus, **narrative technique is not only mere a style or a technique to tell or develop the tale but if used creatively, it can also enrich the theme of the work.** There are many like Margaret Laurence who strongly believe that narrative technique is an integrated part of novel but **it can be also used as an additional element for more effective communication.**