Ch 3 Monologue & Dialogue

**Monologue**

In theatre , a **monologue** (from Greek means *monos* = "alone, solitary" and *lógos*,= "speech") is a speech presented by a single character , most often to express their thoughts aloud, though sometimes also to directly address another character or the audience.

In literature and drama, Monologue is an extended speech by one person. It is a speech given by a single character in a story.

In drama, it is the vocalization of a character‘s thoughts; in literature, the verbalization or articulation or expression.

It is traditionally a device used in theater—a speech to be given on stage—but nowadays, its use extends to film and television.

The term has several closely related meanings. A dramatic monologue is any speech of some duration addressed by a character to a second person.

A soliloquy is a type of monologue in which a character directly addresses an audience or speaks his thoughts aloud while alone or while the other actors keep silent. In fictional literature, an interior monologue is a type of monologue that exhibits the thoughts, feelings, and associations passing through a character‘s mind.

Monologues are common across the range of dramatic media , as well as in non-dramatic media such as poetry . Example : *My Last Duchess* by Robert Browning.

Monologues share much in common with several other literary devices including :

A ) Soliloquies : A **soliloquy** ( from Latin *solo* "to oneself" + *loquor* "I talk",plural ***soliloquies***) is a monologue addressed to oneself, thoughts spoken out loud without attending to another.

Soliloquies are used as a device in drama to let a character make their thoughts known to the audience, address it directly or take it into their confidence.

English Renaisaance Drama used soliloquies to great effect,such as in the soliloquy *To be, or not to be ,* the centerpiece of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet.*

B) **Apostrophe** (Greek  *apostrophé*, "turning away"; the final *e* being sounded)is an exclamatory figure of speech.

 It occurs when a speaker breaks off or disconnects from addressing the audience (e.g. in a play) and directs speech to a third party such as an opposing accuser or some other individual, sometimes absent from the scene. Often the addressee is a personified abstract quality or inanimate object.

 In dramatic works and poetry written in or translated into English, such a figure of speech is often introduced by the vocative exclamation, "O". Poets may apostrophize a beloved, the Muses, God or gods, love, time, or any other entity that can't respond in reality.

C ) An **aside** is a dramatic device in which a character speaks to the audience. By convention the audience is to realize that the character's speech is unheard by the other characters on stage. It may be addressed to the audience expressly (in character or out) or represent an unspoken thought.

An aside is usually a brief comment, rather than a speech, such as a monologue or  soliloquy.

Unlike a public announcement, it occurs within the context of the play. An aside is, by convention, a true statement of a character's thought; a character may be mistaken in an aside, but may not be dishonest.

Aside is used to gossip about other characters without their awareness, give audiences better understanding of matters, as well as make audiences laugh; this humour that may be generated is because the character or characters being talked about is or are not conscious of the fact they are being spoken of.

This technique has frequently been used in film comedy, for example in the Bob Hope "Road" comedies, Woody Allen comedies and in *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. The Jean-Luc Godard film *Breathless* contains an early use of character aside.

It can also be divided in following ways :

Types of Monologue:

1. Dramatic monologue, a poem written in the form of a speech of an individual character; it compresses into a single vivid scene a narrative sense of the speaker‘s history and psychological insight into his character. Though the form is chiefly associated with Robert Browning, who raised it to a highly sophisticated level in such poems as ―My Last Duchess,‖ Many Old English poems are dramatic monologues—for instance, ―The Wanderer‖ and ―The Seafarer.‖ The form is also common in folk ballads, a tradition that Robert Burns imitated with broad satiric effect in ―Holy Willie‘s Prayer.‖

2. Soliloquy, passage in a drama in which a character expresses his thoughts or feelings aloud while either alone upon the stage or with the other actors keeping silent. This device was long an accepted dramatic convention, especially in the theatre of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. Long, ranting soliloquies were popular in the revenge tragedies of Elizabethan times, such as Thomas Kyd‘s Spanish Tragedy, and in the works of Christopher Marlowe, usually substituting the outpouring of one character‘s thoughts for normal dramatic writing. William Shakespeare used the device more artfully, as a true indicator of the mind of his characters, as in the famous ―To be or not to be‖ soliloquy in Hamlet.

3. Interior monologue, in dramatic and non-dramatic fiction, is a narrative technique that exhibits the thoughts passing through the minds of the protagonists. These ideas may be either loosely related impressions approaching free association or more rationally structured sequences of thought and emotion.

**Dialogue**

Dialogue" comes from the Greek word dialogos . Logos means 'the word', or in our case we would think of 'the meaing of the word'. And dia means through'—it doesn't mean 'two'.

A dialogue is a literary technique in which writers employ two or more characters to be engaged in conversation with one another. In literature, it is a conversational passage, or a spoken or written exchange of conversation in a group, or between two persons directed towards a particular subject.

The use of dialogues can be seen back in classical literature, especially in Plato‘s Republic. Several other philosophers also used this technique for rhetorical and argumentative purposes. Generally, it makes a literary work enjoyable and lively.

Dialogue can refer to spoken lines in a dramatic performance such as a play, a film, or a television show. It is also any conversation between two or more people. On the written page, dialogue between characters is usually enclosed by quotation marks. When persons representing different political parties or different nations are said to engage in a dialogue, it means they are probably negotiating something of importance.

Function of Dialogue

It usually is an interpersonal discourse with some of the society members.The use of dialogue is prevalent in fiction, but this technique can also be found in poetry, non-fiction, films, and drama. The dialogue has several purposes, such as advancing the plot of a narrative, and revealing the characters that cannot be understood otherwise. Further, it presents an elucidation of the background or past events, and creates the tone of a narrative.

Its usage can also be seen in modern literary works, where it colors the personalities of the characters, creates a conflict, highlights the vernacular, and moves the storyline forward. Moreover, dialogue makes a literary piece interesting and alive, and gives enjoyable experience to the readers.

Some of the ways / methods to begin the Dialogue : Icebreaking( = conversation starter ) is an important tool to break the silence and begin the dialogue . Some of the ice-breakers are:

### Greeting conversation starters are:

* Hello!/ Hi!
* Good Morning / afternoon / evening
* How are you? / How are you doing?
* Fine / Fine, thanks / Okay
* What’s new? / What’s new with you?
* Not much / Not too much

### Seeing off people

* Good bye! / Bye!
* Good night!
* Take care!
* See you later / soon / tomorrow

### At school

* What class are you studying in?
* What is the name of your school?
* Which is your favorite subject? Why?
* How often do you participate in school activities?

### Regarding Good

* What did you have for lunch?
* Which is your favorite cuisine?
* Which is your favorite ice-cream flavor?
* What do you like as your pizza topping?

### Miscellaneous

* Do you have any plans for the weekend?
* What is your aim in life?
* If you had three wishes, what would they be?
* What do you do after school?

RULES FOR WRITING DIALOGUE

The following rules should help you learn to write dialogue properly. Notice the punctuation in the following examples, especially. In addition to these hints on form, please remember that dialogue should be natural for the characters speaking (be sure to keep in mind your characters’ personality traits).

* 1. Use quotation marks around the words which the character says:

“It’s sure cold out here, “ Mark said.

2. Begin a new paragraph each time a different person speaks – this can help to cut down on the number of dialogue tags required.

“Did you say your prayers tonight?’ “I meant to, but I got to trying to cipher out how much twelve times thirteen is, and –“ “Oh, we are lost beyond all help! How could you neglect such a thing at such a time as this?” Remember to indent the beginning of each dialogue paragraph, just as you would in any other type of writing.

Only the exact words of a person are in quotation marks. Also, when splitting a quotation with a dialogue tag, do not capitalize words which do not begin new sentences.

“I really don’t know,” he said, “whether she loves me or not.”

4. When several sentences are quoted together to form a paragraph, put just one set of quotation marks around the whole quotation. (except for dialogue tags).

5. Periods and commas are always placed inside the quotation marks.

6. An exclamation point (!) or a question mark (?) is placed inside the quotation marks when it punctuates a quotation, but outside the quotation when it punctuates the main sentence.

Example :

“ She looked at me and asked, “Are you alright?” (? punctuates the quote)

Did the teacher really say, “Finish this today”? (? punctuates the main sentence)

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