

Narration Versus Dialogue ... Narration Versus Description

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6OGMIrRSALY&feature=emb_logo

It has been noted that the narrative technique relates the events of a story. The process imparts information to the readers through the writer's use of words. Be it from the perspective of the first person or the third person, the turnings of the story are revealed. Although literary critics attempt to differentiate between narration and description, it is interesting to note that there is a direct link with both. This link is established through the use of dialogue.

Description is employed by the writer to create a particular mood or impression of the story's setting, events and its characters. This is established by both directly by the character's verbal or nonverbal response to his or her external environment. It may also subtly suggest something to us in relation to the personality or the mood of the character. Does the character blend well in a particular setting but experiences anguish in another? Is the character rowdy? Or is the character an introverted silent type?

Description is therefore accomplished through:

1. Zooming in - beginning with the wider then reducing to a focal point;
2. Focusing on the five (5) sensory experiences;
3. Using contrast to highlight differences; and
4. Using the panoramic method - what is seen as one moves from left to right and right to left.

A writer thus chooses **emotive language** that arrests the attention of the readers by targeting their feelings or emotions. While narration provides the events of the story, description adds the hint of colour such details.