

DR. VANDANA SINGH
Asst. Professor
P.G. Dept. of English
MAHARAJA COLLEGE
ARA

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MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY
FICTION

Q. What is Temporal Succession? Reflect on the technique
A. The introduction to the novella mentions

the Heart of Darkness is based on the voyage experiences and it also an exploration of inner soul. The story line moves on a parallel line of Conrad's own experiences and the experience of Marlow chronicled in the novella.

If Conrad's background is traced it is revealed that he loved to explore with a childhood that was filled with upheavals he was used to travelling

Conrad links the exploration of earth with the exploration of inner soul.

The novella deals with the negative effects of Colonialism. The novel explores the mechanism of Imperialism in the colonies that they established and the novella explores the exploitations of

the European dominance through technological superiority. The exploitation and obnoxious power was always done under the cover of civilising mission which would do good to the 'servile natives of the colonies'.

The natives of the colonies were tagged as barbaric and primitive while the agents of Imperialism forged forward exploiting the people and resources to fill their own kauffen. Like Fooster, Conrad had an idea that the Europeans were fulfilling a mission that would benefit the entire human society but his journey to Congo proves to be the revelation of another reality. The horror of the whole process was evident to anyone who saw the reality. There are many admirers of Kurtz (character in the novel) in the novel but reality about Kurtz's voyages to collect ivory is revealed to the narrator later in the novel.

The actual experiences of Conrad in Congo with the human beings who were literally looting it off its resources makes him aware of dimensions of human behaviour unforeseen by him before.

The story concerns with a sailor Marlow who narrates his own experiences of the voyage to five men waiting for the wind tide to turn so that they can sail off in River Thames.

Each action leads to another. Each event is related to each other in time and also through the principle of causality. Another technique (time) the events get retold in Temporal succession.

The novella is a revelation of strings of experiences of Conrad's own voyage of Stormy Seas, long journey, loneliness and isolation.

Heart of Darkness narrates fictional events in a sequence which creates the structure of significance.

TEMPORAL SUCCESSION

While Marlow waits for the tide to turn with his fellow sailors, he begins to tell them story about his journey undertaken earlier to Africa. He recounts the journey from his memory. But every now and then the present intervenes and he addresses the listeners directly to confide something in them or the hearers interrupt him to ask questions. The story which Marlow relates to his fellow sailors was something that had happened in the past but he tells the story to some people at a particular point of time and then the ~~read~~ anonymous narrator is penning it down for the reader. There the readers come across three levels of time which is being taken care of simultaneously in the novella.