

Q. 2 Use of Flashback Technique in Heart of Darkness.

Marlow's flashback into his own experience is co-existent with the present narrator's understanding of the situation. There are many events that are interspersed in it and which do not follow the chronology.

The unnamed narrator 'I' introduces the readers to Marlow. Then Marlow takes over the narration and the story is from Marlow's point of view.

⇒ Marlow's expedition up the River of Darkness is in search of a man, who to him is just a little more than a voice, whose very name was just a word for me

"A voice. He was very little more than a voice. And I heard - him - it - this voice - other voices - all of them were so little more than voices - and the memory of that time itself lingers around me Voices, voices - even the girl herself - now -"

pg 57

The text manipulates duration. Sometimes a single event is dealt with exhaustively and that time is prolonged which takes several pages whereas a long stretch of time is condensed into a short paragraph in the text. These are instances of acceleration in time and deceleration respectively.

"Oh, these months! Well never mind, various things happened. burst into blaze"

pg 26

" You see the thing had gone off sure a box of matches they said he

had caused the fire... "pg 26. The latter description fire is related to beating of the rigger and therefore to emphasise the point longer description.

→ Conrad achieves a closure in the novella with a lie told to a woman 'Intended' about the man she loved, rather worshipped.

" The last word he pronounced was — your name? " I heard a light sigh and then my heart stopped still She knew. She was sure "

pg 94

→ When Marlow talks of filling the steamboat with ivory, he at that point of time nowhere near Kurtz's station and they are not even sure if they would reach it. Marlow jumps the temporal plain to convey the readers something which might happen later.

" He was its spoiled and pampered favourite. Ivory? The old muddy shanty was bursting with it. You would think there was not a single tusk left We filled the steamboat with it, and had a pile a lot on the deck. Thus he could see and enjoy as long as he could see to the last "

pg 58

All Europe had contributed in making of Kurtz because his mother was half English and his father half French. He had been educated in England partly therefore &

his sympathies lied, rightfully, with the company:
And thus Kurtz had prepared, on these lines,
a report for International Society of the
Suppression of Savage Customs.

"It was very simple, and at the end of that
moving appeal to every altruistic sentiment it
blazed at you, luminous and terrifying - ~~~
"Exterminate all the brutes!"

And after a second move, starts making
his way back to the present point in the
story

No; I can't forget him, though I am
not prepared to affirm the fellow was
exactly worthy pilot house"

And he finally lands back in the present
that is, the present moment in the story
where he pulls the spear from his helmsman's
body and tosses him overboard and readers
are back in the flow of the story heading for
Kurtz's station

Q. 3 CAUSALITY features strongly in the Novel. Illustrate 3.

Causal events are directly connected with
through action and its effect, i.e. action
and reaction. Something happens and
has its effect, and that effect in turn
causes something else to happen.

For eg. a fast running car hits a
pedestrian and she gets hospitalised
and the driver dies. Simply
shows the cause and effect.

There was an accident which caused death
and injury.

" You see the thing had gone off like a box of matches they said he

had caused the fire . . . " pg 26. The latter description fire is related to beating of the nigger and therefore to emphasise the point longer description .

→ Conrad achieves a closure in the novella with a lie told to a woman 'Intended' about the man she loved, rather worshipped

" The last word he pronounced was — your name? " I heard a light sigh and then my heart stopped still
 She knew, she was sure "

pg 94

→ When Marlow talks of filling the steamboat with ivory, he at that point of time no where near Kurtz's station and they are not even sure if they would reach it Marlow jumps the temporal plain to convey the readers something which might happen later

" He was its spoiled and pampered favourite, Ivory? The old muddly shanty was bursting with it. You would think there was not a single tusk left We filled the steamboat with it, and had a pile a lot on the deck. Thus he could see and enjoy as long as he could see to the last "

pg 58

All Europe had contributed in making of Kurtz because his mother was half English and his father half French. He had been educated in England partly therefore

Kurtz's overpowering the savages is

causally related to the colonial atrocities.

"... we whites, from the point of development we had arrived at, must necessarily appear to them [savages] in the nature of supernatural beings - we approach them with the might as of a deity, ... By the simple exercise of our will we can exert a power for good practically unbounded."

→ Marlow's journey to Congo is causally related to his interests in maps.

"Now when I was a little chap I had passion for maps. I would look for hours at South America ... I would put my finger on it and say 'One day I grow I will go there' pointing to those many blank spaces on the earth. You understand it was a continental concern ... I began to worry them - I felt somehow I must get there by hook or by crook." - PG 7

→ Marlow's visit to the Company headquarters through his parting with his aunt.

"I, Charlie Marlow, set the women to work to get a job. Heavens! well you see the notice drove me ... It will be delightful, I am ready to do anything, anything for you ... She was determined to make no end of fuss to get me appointed skipper of a river steam boat." - PG 7-8

→ Marlow's journey down the coast of Africa through his meeting with the Chief Accountant. The Chief Accountant tells him about Kurtz and asks him to mention to Kurtz that everything was being done nicely at the Central Station.

"... and fifty feet below the doorstep I could see the still tree-tops of the grove of death." - PG 21
... Next day I left that station at last ...

→ Marlow's journey to the Central Station is causally related to the arrival of Eldorado Exploring Expedition!

"Suddenly there was a growing murmur of voices

..... A caravan had come in pg 20

"Instead of rivets there came an invasion, an infliction, a visitation. It came in sections during the next three weeks, each section headed by a donkey carrying a white man....." pg 34-35

→ Marlow's overhearing the conversation between the manager and his circle gets causally related through the beginning of his voyage up the river.

"I was then rather excited at the prospect of meeting Kurtz very soon "Going up that river was travelling back to the earliest beginnings of the world, when vegetation roted on earth and the big trees were kings..... There were moments when one's past came back to one." pg 39

→ Marlow's discovery of the stock of firewood through the attack on the steamer
"What we afterwards alluded to as an attack was really an attempt at repulse... it was undertaken under the stress of desperation.....

when I saw an islet, a mere grassy hummock of bright green in the middle of the bright green....." pg 51

→ Marlow's digression about Kurtz through his meeting with Russian trader.

"The admirer of Mr. Kurtz was crestfallen..... 'I don't want to know anything of the ceremonies used when approaching Mr. Kurtz,' I shouted. Curious, this feeling

that came over me that such details would be more intolerable than those heads drying on the stakes under Mr. Kurtz's windows... Mr. Kurtz pg 70-2
"was no lid of mine" pg 71

→ The Russian trader's description of Kurtz through the Russian trader's departure from the Inner station are related causally.

I had better get out of the way.

What's to stop them? There's a military post three hundred miles from here! Well, upon my word, said I, perhaps you had better go if you have any friends amongst the savages. . . . He informed me, lowering his voice, that it was Kurtz who had ordered the attack to be made on the steamer. . . .

→ Marlow's nighttime pursuit of Kurtz (pg 76-77) through the steamship's departure from the Inner Station.

"As soon as I got ~~on~~ the bank I saw a trail I kept to the track I came upon him I had cut him off cleverly Your success in Europe is assured in any case. . . . He struggled with himself, too. I saw it. And the attack that follows next day

"when next day we left at noon . . . the crowd"

→ Marlow's falling ill is causally related to his journey back down the river

"I dare say I was not very well at that time, I tottered about the streets - there were various affairs to settle - grinning. . . . My dear Aunt's endeavours to 'morse up my strength' seemed altogether beside the mark. . . . my imagination that

→ Marlow's journey, rather appointment on the ship is causally related to the death of the previous captain

"I got my appointment - of course; and I got it quick. It appears that the Company had received news that one of their captains had been killed in a scuffle with natives" till I got out and stepped into his shoes. I couldn't let it rest, though; the grass growing through his ribs was tall enough to hide his bones"

→ Power and Supremacy are the causes which motivates Kurtz's enamoured fascination with the jungle and his long stay. He becomes allied with the natives through fear to avoid becoming another causality. The innocent natives, their fears cause the manipulations of Kurtz, a brilliant genius, preying on their insecurities.

Marlow's description of the natives having 'a wild vitality' and their faces like 'grotesque mask' reinforces the ethnic or racial hatred which is a direct causality of his fear response and insecurities.

→ The primary cause of Kurtz going to Belgian colony and start work as an ivory post operator is to become wealthy and marry his intended which later becomes an obsession for him and turns him literally into a criminal. The criminal sort of obsession to collect more ivory is direct causality to his undeniably social status earlier and the ^{insatiable} hunger to collect more wealth later on in life.

→ There is a strong historical context of physiological symptoms associated with colonialism. During the late nineteenth century, the 'colonial's disease' or 'sleeping sickness' changed from an illness into an epidemic affecting whole of Congo. The cause was not identified earlier but its spread incidentally coincided with the arrival of colonial forces and imperialistic brutalities. The causality was directly associated with the colonialists.

Two incidents get correlated - The Company had no qualms regarding this or the mistreatment that is meted out.

"We gave her her letters (I heard the men in that lonely ship were dying of fever at the rate of three a day) and went on. We called at some more places with farcical names, where the merry dance of death and Trade goes on in a still and earthy atmosphere as of an overheated catacomb; --- pg 11"

→ Kurtz himself was attacked by this. In fact Conrad suffered from the disease and his ailings might be chronicled in the novella. Later it was discovered that the sickness was caused due to tsetse fly. Conrad himself has presumed causal relation between the act of colonialism and the disease's symptoms.

"The Half-caste, who as far as I could see, had conducted a difficult trip with great prudence and pluck, was invariably alluded to as 'that scoundrel'. The scoundrel had reported that the man had been very ill... had

"... .." pg 37

→ Just as the symptoms of disease keeps recurring, undefined, unexplained in the novella so does the administration of the company which manifests itself all over "They were no colonists; their administration was merely a squeeze, and nothing more, I suspect. They were conquerors and for that you want only brutal force The conquest of the earth, which mostly means the taking it away from those who have a different complexion or slightly flatter noses than ourselves, is not pretty thing. . . ." p. 5

→ Kurtz's journey into the darkness is directly correlated with his hunger for power and finding ivory. The causality is evident. "My Ivory? Oh yes, I heard him. 'My Intended, my ivory, my station, my swan my' - everything belonged to him: . . . the thing was to know what he belonged to, how many powers of darkness claimed him for their own."

→ The causative agent is tetzy fly ^{pp} 58 which caused sleeping disease but the causality is the surrounding superstitions related to the delusions coma and death. Witchcraft permeated the fabrics of the colonial servile mentalities

→ A linear chain of causality exists in between the death of the Captain and the death of the village, though it begins with the expectation of causality

" The supernatural being had not been touched after he fell. And the village was deserted, the huts gaped black, rotting, all askew within the fallen enclosures. A calamity had come to it, sure enough. The people had vanished. Mad terror had scattered them, men, women, and children, through the bush, and they had never returned.

....."
Pg 8-9 .

