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Speech and Thought Presentation in *Pride and Prejudice*

Ang Lee

This paper is to study speech and thought presentation of the main characters, Elizabeth and Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*. In the novel, there are four types of speech presentation which include Direct Speech (DS), Indirect Speech (IS), Free Direct Speech (FDS), and Free Indirect Speech (FIS).

DS is the most direct way to express the point of view of the characters in the novel. However, it can still be affected by the narrator due to the way of presenting. In DS, it can be divided into three different ways of presenting. The typical way is to eliminate the influence of the narrator by omitting both reporting clauses and quotation marks. The second way is to minimize the effect from narration by keeping quotation marks and omitting the reporting clause. The third way is to give the possibility that the effect from the narrator by keeping reporting clause and omitting quotation marks.

The form of IS is identical to the narration. The content of utterance is more emphasized by indirect way than by straight way of the exact word of the character. The feature of FIS is that the point of view from the narrator and the character coincide. Especially in the novels of Jane Austen, the FIS is usually used for expressing ironical point of view by the author.

In thought presentation, there are four types: Direct Thought (DT) and Free Direct Thought (FDT) are also used for expressing the point of view of characters emphatically similar to the DS and FDS in speech presentation. However, the reader can get the thought of the character directly from thought presentation, so the distance between the character and the reader is much closer in thought presentation than in speech presentation. In addition, the artificial features of Indirect thoughts (IT) and Free Indirect Thoughts (FIT) are less than that of DT and FDT.

The characteristics of speech and thought presentation are summarized, based on the preceding studies. The forms of speech and thought presentation are similar, but the meanings are different. Speech presentation is the expression that the character expresses himself/herself in voice, and thought presentation is the expression which occurs in the mind of the character.

In speech presentation, DS and FDS both emphasize the voice of

character, but the effect of the narrator in FDS is less than DS. IS and FIS have more effect of the narrator and bring distance between the reader and the character.

In thought presentation, the mind of the character is shown as in speech presentation, but the thought of character is conveyed to the reader through the narrator. The mind cannot speak loud to others directly, so the artificial features of thought presentation is evident. IT and FIT are more objective and similar to the narration. Furthermore, the intention to bring the character closer to the reader in thought presentation is more effective than speech presentation.