

Free Indirect Discourse and Psychonarration from Middle English to 1700

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FID diachronically

Three issues:

- A. Speech vs. thought representation
- B. Oral origin?
- C. Definitions: grammar or NOW + PAST?

A. Speech vs. Consciousness

MIDDLE ENGLISH

1. Representation of Speech/Utterances

- DIRECT SPEECH
- Indirect speech
- Overlaps → free indirect speech

And he nikked hym 'Naye!' – *he nolde bi no ways*

(*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, line 2471)

And he told him, "*No, he would not at all*" (quoted Pons-Sanz 2019: 215)

Daun John hym maketh feeste and murye cheere,
And he hym **tolde** agayn, ful specially,
How he hadde wel ybought and graciously,
Thanked be God, al hool his merchandise,
*Save that he **moste**, in alle maner wise,*
Maken a chevysaunce, as for his beste,
*And thanne he **sholde** been in joye and reste.*

(Chaucer, "The Shipman's Tale"; B2 342-348; 1988: 207)

Father John rejoices [lit. makes himself a festival] and [makes] merry cheer, and told him again in detail how he had well and successfully bought his whole merchandise, thank God; *only he still must, without fail, take up a loan [to repay his debts] for his best interest, and then he would be happy and relax.*

2. Consciousness

- direct speech/soliloquy
- (brief) psychonarration
- free indirect discourse

The emperour was evyll payd:

Hyt was soth, the lady sayd;

Therefore hym lykyd yll ... [psN]

(*The Erle of Toulous* [14thc], fitt xiv, ll. 157-9; 1881: 226)

The emperor was displeased [lit. 'evil pleased'] / *It was true what the lady was saying*
– / This he did not like at all ... [psN]

He [Gamelyn] **thoughte on his londes** that layen vnsawe,

And his faire okes that down were i-drawe. [psN]

His parkes were i-broken and his deer byreued;

Of alle his goode steedes noon was him byleued;

His howses were vnhiled and ful yuel dight;

Tho thoughte Gamelyn *it wente nought aright.* (*Gamelyn* [15thc], ll. 83-9; 1884: 4)

Gamelyn **thought** of his landes . that were lying untended ['unsown'] / and of his beautiful oaks . that had been cut down. [psN] / *His woods were destroyed . his deer taken away / of all his good horses . none was left [to him] / his houses were laid bare . and very badly cared for ['de-destroyed'] / Thus thought Gamelyn . it all went badly [it had all gone awry].*

Speech vs. Consciousness: Statistics

instances of FID	speech representation	consciousness	total
Middle English	12	07	19
Early modern English	47	13	60

New: lengthy passages of psychonarration

Early modern English: speech

Franion, staying him in the midst of his talk, **told him** that to dally with princes was with the swans to sing against their death [...]. *Therefore his Majesty did ill to misconstrue of his good meaning, sith his intent was to hinder treason, not to become a traitor; and to confirm his premises, if it please his Majesty to flee into Sicilia for the safeguard of his life, he would go with him. And if then he found not such a practice to be pretended, let his imagined treachery be repaid with most monstrous torments.*

(Greene, *Pandosto*; 1987: 161)

May heaven forgive that bad woman, and bring her to repentance! *For his part, he was not so much in love with life, as to use many arguments to justify his innocence; unless it were to free that order from a scandal, of which he had the honour to be profess'd. But as for himself, life or death were things indifferent to him, who heartily despis'd the world.* (Behn, "Fair Jilt," 124)

Early modern English: consciousness

Dorus writing to Pamela:

[...] mistrusting each word, condemning each sentence. *This word was not significant; that word was too plain; this would not be conceived; the other would be ill-conceived; here sorrow was not enough expressed, there he seemed too much for*

his own sake to be sorry; this sentence rather showed art than passion, that sentence rather foolishly passionate than forcibly moving. (Sidney, NA, 1987: 437)

"He [...] thought it better to have her with nothing than some other with much treasure. *And besides, as far her qualities were good, so was she of very comely personage, of a sweet favour and fair complexion*". (Deloney, Jack of Newbury; 1987: 334)

B. Oral vs. written FID?

Oral model:

No remedy there was but I must help to furnish him with money. (Nashe 1987: 221)

"[...] yet his resolution might not be reversed, *but both of them must away from the court without either more company or delay*" (Lodge, Rosalynde; 1995: 46).

149. And now was I both a burthen and a terror to myself; nor did I ever so know, as now, what it was to be weary of my life, and yet afraid to die. *Oh! how gladly now would I have been anybody but myself! anything but a man, and in any condition but my own!* (Bunyan 1987: 38)

More 'written' FID:

Muche was Valentyne in greate thoughte nyghte and daye how he might deliuer his father. ¶ *For he knew well that the castle might not be taken by force of armes, nor by enchauntement, but it might wel be taken by treason. So he aduysed a thing that was much subtilly composed. (Valentine and Orson [1550] ciii; 1937: 298)*

[...] *but the sum was he [the duke] disdained them, and what were the shows of his estate if their arms maintained him not? Who would call him duke if he had not a people? [...] If Arcadia grew loathsome in the duke's sight, why did he not rid himself of the trouble? There would not want those should take so fair a cumber in good part. (Sidney, OA; 1994: 111-12)*

C. NOW + PAST

Banfield (1982), Adamson (1995)

NARR, FIS

Now, newly after that the duke had begun his solitary life, there came [...] into this country two young princes [...]" (OA, 1994: 9).

Thus **now** this little, but noble, company united again together [...] (48)

[...] he besought him [Pyrocles] not to make account of his speech [...]; that he had never thought fancy could have received so deep a wound [ID], but **now** finding in him the force of it, he would no longer contrary it [...]. (12)

NOW + PAST in FIT/psychonarration

Basilus, whose heart was **now** set on fire with his new mistress (**Sidney**, OA 39)

Pamela "would needs make open war upon herself [...]; for, indeed, even **now** find she did a certain working of a new-come inclination to Dorus. [...] But how therein Dorus sought to satisfy her you shall after hear; for **now** the day being closed up in darkness the duke would fain have had Cleophila gone to rest [...]."(**Sidney**, OA 49)

149. And **now** was I both a burthen and a terror to myself; nor did I ever so know, as **now**, what it was to be weary of my life, and yet afraid to die. *Oh! how gladly now would I have been anybody but myself! anything but a man, and in any condition but my own!* (**Bunyan** 1987: 38)

Conclusions

A. FID (FIS/FIT) exists in ME and EME;
 more speech than thought representation.

Major authors: Chaucer, Sidney, Bunyan, Behn

B. Oral Origin possible, but not convincing

C. PAST + NOW:

NOT a good indicator of FIT

not exclusive to characters' perspective

underlines internal focalization in psychonarration

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