

VICTOR ERLICH : A Note on the Monologue As A
Literary Form For Max Weinreich pp. 44-50

- 44 Definition: as used in narrative prose is neither "non-dialogue" nor an extended utterance of a protagonist, but a mode of discourse or narration employed throughout a work of fiction or a large part of it in which the voice of an individual speaker or story-teller is distinctly heard & which is marked by frequent use of 1st-person pronouns.
- 45 Written monologue: employed in European prose fiction, ever since 18th cent. when - Sentimentalist quest for "authenticity" & intimacy encouraged - use of such non-fictional genres as memoir, a diary or letter.
- Oral monologue [= skaz] : a stylistically individualized inner narrative placed in the mouth of a fictional character & designed to produce an illusion of oral speech.
- 46 skaz tends to function as a mode of characterization - class-determined deviations from linguistic norm betray - speaker's or narrator's social & educational status, even while his idiosyncratic verbal mannerisms often reveal his personality traits.
- 47 - the narrator's moral & intellectual range defines the narrative focus, the vantage point from which events are presented.
- in "fol", the narrative manner becomes... a technique of indirection, a kind of compositional synecdoche.
- a tension is effected between 2 views of reality - "overt", & clearly inadequate, view, offered by the speaker or chronicler, & implicit one, presumably that of the author & of the "ideal" reader.

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✓ preposterousness of an interminable monologue in what was purported to be a dialogue situation is at work of some of SA's telling comic effects

eg: 238 JK, 67C. 43

49 - ✓ natural tendency of - "compulsive" oral monologue is to reduce - "other" to - status of a mere shadow.

- in some cases, talk is a substitute for action.