SPEECH AND THOUGHT REPRESENTATION
HANDOUTS & EXERCISES
2011-2012

READING LIST:
- Jeffries (2010), (3.2.4.), pp.87-92
- Leech & Short (1981), ch. 10
- Short (1996), Ch. 10

CATEGORIES:

A. Direct speech / thought (DS, DT)
B. Indirect speech / thought (IS, IT)
C. Free direct speech / thought (FDS, FDT)
D. Free indirect speech / thought (FIS, FIT)
E. Narrative report of action (NRA)
F. Narrative report of speech acts (NRS / NRSA)

A. Direct speech / thought (DS, DT)
E.G. Reporting clause + “............”.

CASE 1

“This is my uncle Nat” Rory said, still holding on to me for dear life. “My mother’s only brother. I haven’t seen him in a long long time.”

“I know that,” Minor said, “but he can come back in a couple of days – as soon as you’re feeling better.”

B. Indirect speech / thought (IS, IT)

CASE 2

Now compare:
“In the Flesh”
(61)
I thought it would be simple, but it took me six or seven shots before I felt I’d struck the right tone

(57) He was wearing a purple velour jacket, I remember, with a multicoloured silk handkerchief….

(60) Perhaps it has to do with his earlier confession to Tom, I thought.

C. Free indirect speech / thought (FIS, FIT)

(60) DS
“Perhaps it has to do with his earlier confession to Tom”, I thought’
I thought perhaps it had to do with his earlier confession to Tom

I thought perhaps it has to do with his earlier confession to Tom

D. Free direct speech / thought (FDS, FDT)

Minor gave me a short, wistful grin. “How’s the little one doing?”
“Do you care?”
“Of course I care”
“Why did you send her away?”
“It wasn’t my decision. Aurora didn’t want her anymore, and there was nothing I could do to stop her.”

E. Narrator's report of action (NRA)

a. Actions by the characters (The went to a party)
b. Events or happenings (It began to snow)
c. Descriptions or states (He was ill)
d. Character's perceptions of a. and b. (Mary saw that it was snowing)

(FUNCTION: BUSCAR EN LOS TEXTOS)

F. Narrative report of speech acts (NRS) / (NRSA)

Dombrowsli considered Harry a moral degenerate, an example of some debased subspecies of organism that not fully qualified as a human, and he held him personally accountable for Flora’s illness.

(EXERCISE 2 IN SHORT 1996)

CLINE OF SPEECH AND THOUGHT REPRESENTATION

Event narration
NRA - NRS - NRSA - IS/T - FIS/T - DS/T - ID/T - FDS/T

Speech representation

(+ ) narratorial control................... (- ) narratorial control

“The novelist can never let the novel tell itself. But he can make it to do so, by the selection of the linguistic features that go with one mode of address rather than another”. (Leech and Short, 1981: 268).
EXERCISES

CASE 1 - *The Broolyn Follies*, from the “The laughing girl”

(...)

There was no doorbell, so I knocked. When nothing happened, I knocked again. Ever since Rory had left her message in Tom’s machine, we had been expecting her to call back. But no more had been heard of her. And now that I was standing of what appeared to be an empty house, I was beginning to suspect that she no longer lived there. All sorts of gruesome thoughts jumped around my head as I knocked for the third time. What if she had tried to run away, I asked myself, and Minor had caught up with her? What if he had taken her to another city, another state, and we had lost track of her forever? What if he had struck her and accidentally killed her? What if the end had already come, and I was too late to carry her back to the world she belonged to?

The door opened, and there was Minor in the flesh, a tall good-looking man of about forty, with dark, neatly combed hair and gentle blue eyes. [...] A man who had been to church, I said to myself. A man who observed the Sabbath and took his religion seriously.

“Yes? He asked. “What can I do for you?”

“I’m Rory’s uncle,” I said. “Nathan Glass. I happened to be in the neighbourhood and thought I’d drop by to see her.”

“Oh? Is she expecting you?

No than I’m aware of. As I understand it, you don’t have a telephone.”

[...]

Minor was so wrapped up in what he was saying, he still hadn’t noticed that I wasn’t looking directly at him. Fuck it, I said to myself. Enough cat and mouse. Enough beating around the bush. It’s time to pull the curtain on the second act.

“Come on down, Rory,” I said. “It’s your uncle Nat, and I’m not going to leave this house until I’ve talked with you.”

I jumped from the couch and skirted past Minor to the foot of the stairs, moving quickly on the off chance that he would try to stop me from going to her.

“She’s asleep,” I heard him say behind me, just I caught my first glimpse of Aurora’s legs at the top of the stairs. [...] “No David,” my niece called out as she descended the stairs. “I’m all right.”

[...]

“This is my uncle Nat” Rory said, still holding on to me for dear life. “My mother’s only brother. I haven’t seen him in a long long time.”

“I know that,” Minor said, “but he can come back in a couple of days – as soon as you’re feeling better.”

“You know what’s best, don’t you, David,” Rory said. “You always know what’s best. Silly me to come downstairs without your approval.”

“Don’t go if you don’t want to” I said to her. “You’re not going to die if you stay here for a few more minutes”.

“Oh yes I will,” she said, making no effort to hide her sarcasm.” “David thinks I’ll die if I don’t do everything he says, Isn’t that right, David?”
“Calm down, Aurora, “ her husbad said. “Not in front of your uncle.”
“Why not? She answered. Why the goddamn fucking not?”
“Watch your tongue,” Minor reprimanded her. “We don’t talk like that in this house.”

**CASE 2 – Nice Work David Lodge**

Upsetting? What right or reason had he to feel upset about Robyn Penrose's private life? It's none of your business, he told himself angrily. Business is your business. He thumped his head with his own fists as if to knock some sense into it, or the nonsense out of it. What in god's name was he doing, the Managing Director of a casting and engineering company with a likely deficit this month of thirty thousand pounds, sitting in the dark, woolgathering about Greek goddesses? He should be at his desk, working on the plan to computerize stock and purchasing.

Nevertheless he remained slumped in his armchair, thinking about Robyn Penrose, and about having her to lunch next Sunday. *(Nice Work, 226-7)*

**CASE 3 – Middlemarch, George Eliot**

Dorothea, a young woman with a provincial upbringing, is engaged to Mr. Casaubon. She hopes he will teach her Latin and Greek, in part so that she can help him in his work:

She would not have asked Mr Casaubon at once to teach her the languages, dreading of all things to be tiresome instead of helpful; but it was not entirely out of devotion to her future husband that she wished to know Latin and Greek. Those provinces of masculine knowledge seemed to her a standing-ground from which all truth could be seen more truly. As it was, she constantly doubted her own conclusions, because she felt her own ignorance: how could she be confident that one-roomed cottages were not for the glory of God, when men who knew the classics appeared to conciliate indifference to the cottages with zeal for the glory? Perhaps even Hebrew might be necessary - at least the alphabet and a few roots - in order to arrive at the core of things, and judge soundly on the social duties of the Christian. And she had not reach that point of renunciation at which she would have been satisfied with having a wise husband; she wished, poor child, to be wise herself. Miss Brooke was certainly very naive with all her alleged cleverness. Celia, whose mind had never been though too powerful, saw the emptiness of other people's pretensions much more readily. To have in general but little feeling, seems to be the only security against feeling too much in any particular occasion.

**CASE 4 – Come Rain or Come Shine Ishiguro (p.52)**