

## Pragmatics of Epistolary Technique Used in Biographical Works

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this study is to analyse pragmatics of the epistolary technique, or the use of letters in biographical works. Moreover, It investigates pragmatic considerations for using this technique in biographical writing. Incorporating these pragmatic considerations can help ensure that the epistolary technique enhances the biographical work.

**Keywords:** An epistolary novel, the epistolary technique, pragmatic considerations, correspondence, the biographical work, biographical writing, the letters or documents.

**Introduction.** The epistolary technique, involving the use of letters, diary entries, or other forms of written communication, can be a powerful and engaging method in biographical works. When employed effectively, it adds depth to the narrative and provides readers with a more intimate and personal understanding of the subject. Here are some pragmatic considerations for using the epistolary technique in biographical works:

### Authenticity and Source Material in biographies:

- We identify epistolary examples as authentic materials from biographic works such as actual letters and documents. There is real correspondence from the subject of the biography to maintain authenticity.
- The letters or documents used in biographic works are authentic and sourced accurately. This helps maintain the credibility of the biographical account.
- If original letters are unavailable, meticulous research and consultation of archival materials can help recreate the tone and style of the subject's communication.
- If the subject didn't leave behind a significant amount of written material, consider incorporating letters from contemporaries or close associates to provide additional perspectives.

The letters are organized chronologically to create a cohesive and easily understandable timeline of events. This helps readers follow the subject's life in a structured manner.

- Carefully selected letters or documents that contribute to the narrative and offer insights into the subject's personality, thoughts, and experiences. The selected correspondence should contribute to the overall narrative arc of the biography.
- Letters are edited for clarity and coherence without compromising the essence of the writer's voice and without sacrificing the authenticity of the original writing. This involves smoothing out grammar or punctuation issues while retaining the individuality of the author's expression and adding contextual information or explanations where needed.
- Supplementary materials are included, such as a timeline or family tree, to help readers navigate the complex relationships and events mentioned in the letters.

- The epistolary elements are integrated with other biographical content, such as narrative passages, interviews, or analysis. Letters are used as supplements rather than relying solely on them to tell the entire story.
- Background information or transitional passages are used to connect the letters and provide a comprehensive narrative.

#### **Varied Voices and Perspectives:**

- Epistolary technique includes a variety of communication forms, not just letters. This can encompass telegrams, diary entries, or even emails, depending on the time period and availability of sources.
- Letters from different people are used, the diversity of voices are highlighted to present a well-rounded view of the subject. This can include letters from friends, family, colleagues, and adversaries.

#### **Balancing Objectivity and Subjectivity:**

- A balance between the subject's personal perspective, as revealed in their letters, and the subjective nature of personal correspondence and the objective analysis of the biographer is maintained. This helps avoid a biased or overly sentimental portrayal.
- Letters are used to humanize the subject without sacrificing the overall factual accuracy of the biography.
- The epistolary technique is used to provide insights into the historical context of the subject's life. Letters can offer a window into the social, political, and cultural milieu of the time.

#### **Integration with Other Narrative Techniques:**

- The epistolary technique is combined with other narrative approaches, such as traditional third-person narration, to create a dynamic and engaging biographical work.
- A consistent tone and style are maintained throughout the epistolary sections to create a cohesive narrative. This helps in providing a seamless reading experience. The reader is engaged emotionally by selecting letters that evoke the subject's emotions, challenges, and triumphs. A connection between the reader and the subject is created through the intimacy of personal correspondence.

**Conclusion.** In summary, the pragmatics of using the epistolary technique in biographical works involve careful selection, arrangement, and integration of letters to enhance the overall narrative while maintaining authenticity and objectivity. Incorporating the epistolary technique thoughtfully can add depth and intimacy to a biographical work, offering readers a unique window into the subject's inner world and relationships. The epistolary technique, which involves using letters or other written correspondence as a narrative device, can be a powerful and engaging tool in biographical works.

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