

Understanding The Author's Purpose in Interpretative Reading

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Abstract

Understanding the author's purpose is a fundamental aspect of literary analysis, enabling readers to delve beyond the surface of a text and uncover its deeper meaning. This article aims to explore the intricate nature of discerning the author's purpose, elucidating the significance it holds in comprehending various forms of written communication. The article begins by highlighting the multifaceted nature of an author's purpose, emphasizing that it extends beyond mere entertainment or information dissemination. Authors often craft their works with specific intentions, such as persuading, informing, entertaining, inspiring, or challenging their audience. Recognizing these underlying motives allows readers to engage more deeply with the text and appreciate the subtleties woven into its fabric. The article further explores various techniques employed by authors to convey their purpose effectively. Analyzing elements such as tone, style, symbolism, characterization, and narrative structure provides valuable clues about the author's desired impact on the reader. Metaphors, allegories, and other literary devices often serve as vehicles for conveying deeper meanings, inviting readers to engage in a more profound exploration of the text. In conclusion, unraveling the author's purpose is a captivating journey that requires a thoughtful analysis of the text, consideration of the author's context, awareness of literary techniques, and an appreciation for the diversity of interpretations. By immersing oneself in this process, readers can unlock the deeper layers of meaning within a text, fostering a deeper connection with the author's intended message.

Keyword: Understanding, Purpose, Analyzing

1. INTRODUCTION

The motivation behind a writer's decision to create a piece of work is often overlooked, but it always exists. This underlying reason, known as the author's purpose, is what drives them to write and sets the goals they hope to achieve. The author's purpose encompasses countless possibilities, as each writer has their own unique motivations. By understanding why an author chose to write about a certain topic, we can effectively and accurately interpret their writing. Comprehending the author's purpose allows us to grasp their intended message and the overall intent of a specific literary work. An author's purpose refers to their intention or motivation behind writing a piece, whether it is fiction or non-fiction. This purpose is evident in the choice of genre, writing style, and language used by the author. These elements are carefully selected to effectively convey a central message, entertain the reader, influence their opinion, and more. The author's purpose is also reflected in the title of their work, prefaces, and their personal background. Typically, the author's purpose can be categorized into three main groups: persuade, inform, and entertain, represented by the acronym PIE. However, it is important to note that there are numerous other reasons for writing beyond these three categories. The PIE acronym simply represents the primary classes of an author's purpose. In the following section, I will provide further elaboration on the different forms of an author's purpose, including the aforementioned three broader categories I introduced.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research method that we did this time was using the library research method. This method is a research method that is carried out by reading, studying and recording various line arts or reading materials that are in accordance with the subject of the reading and then filtering and pouring it into a theoretical

frame of mind. This method contains a systematic description of the literature review and the results of previous studies that have something to do with the research that will be carried out and try to show the up-to-date conditions of the field of knowledge.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

What Is Author's Purpose

As previously mentioned, an author's purpose refers to their underlying motive or intention when writing. This applies to both fiction and non-fiction works, where authors carefully select the genre, writing style, and language to align with their purpose. These choices in writing formats, genres, and language serve the purpose of effectively conveying a specific message to readers, entertaining them, or even influencing their opinions. The author's purpose is reflected in their approach to a given topic. For instance, if the intention is to amuse, the writing may incorporate jokes or 3 anecdotal sections. The author's purpose also extends to the way they title their works, craft prefaces, and draw upon their personal background. Generally, the author's purposes can be categorized into three primary groups: persuasion, information, and entertainment—conveniently represented by the acronym PIE. It is important to note, however, that there are numerous other motivations for writing beyond these three categories. The PIE acronym simply serves as a representation of the main classes of an author's purpose. In the subsequent section, I will provide further elaboration on the various manifestations of an author's purpose, encompassing the aforementioned three broader categories that I previously introduced. Recognizing the author's intention aids readers in comprehending and evaluating written works. This analytical advantage allows readers to form an informed viewpoint.

The titles or opening passages of a text serve as indicators, giving readers an idea of the type of text they are about to engage with. When the author's purpose is identified, it becomes easier to discern the techniques employed to accomplish that specific purpose. Therefore, once the author's intent is established, readers can discern the author's style, tone, choice of words, and content used to convey their message. Furthermore, understanding the author's purpose enables readers to explore the attitudes, beliefs, or perspectives of others. How a piece of text is written and its underlying purpose greatly influence how readers interpret the information presented to them. Perception plays a crucial role, especially when the author's goal is to inform, educate, or provide explanations to the reader. In the case of an informative piece, it is essential for the author to present relevant and trustworthy information, as well as clearly explain their concepts. Otherwise, readers may perceive the author as attempting to deceive them. Readers, particularly those engaging with informative or persuasive texts, anticipate authors to substantiate their arguments and establish credibility by referencing independent sources in their writing. Similarly, readers have expectations of being captivated and fully immersed in works of fiction.

Types Of Author's Purpose

The author's purpose refers to their specific intention or objective when writing a piece, which can be to persuade, inform, or entertain the audience. While these three aspects are the most frequently mentioned as the author's purpose, it is worth noting that other elements, such as describing and explaining, are also commonly included in discussions regarding the author's purpose. The number of types of author's purposes varies depending on different perspectives and sources. Generally, the range can be anywhere from three to seven. In this article, we will focus on the five most common author's purposes, as they appear on the majority of lists. The first three are universally acknowledged, while the last two are mentioned less frequently.

1. To Inform: The author's objective is to provide factual information to the reader.
2. To Persuade: The author aims to convince the reader to adopt a particular viewpoint or take specific action.
3. To Entertain: The author intends to engage and amuse the reader through storytelling, humor, or other means.
4. To Describe: The author utilizes vivid language to create a visual image in the reader's mind.
5. To Explain: The author's purpose is to clarify or simplify a complex topic or concept.
6. To Argue: The author seeks to present a well-reasoned case either in support of or against a particular idea or position.
7. To Instruct: The author's goal is to provide step-by-step guidance or directions to the reader.

While we are discussing five purposes in detail, it is often recommended for younger students to start with the central three: to persuade, to inform, and to entertain. These three purposes can be easily remembered using the acronym PIE and serve as a foundational understanding of this topic.

To Persuade

In this particular form of author's purpose, the author endeavors to influence the reader and encourage them to adopt their opinion, declaration, or position. The objective is to persuade the reader and prompt them to act in a specific manner. To achieve this, authors employ various techniques such as providing supporting facts, evidence, and illustrations to substantiate their ideas. Additionally, persuasive writing requires authors to employ creativity. For instance, aside from presenting factual information, authors may incorporate 5 entertaining elements to engage and captivate readers. By making their writing enjoyable and relatable, authors enhance the likelihood of persuading readers to take the desired course of action.

1. Example: This purpose can be found in all kinds of writing. It can even be in fiction writing when the author has an agenda, consciously or unconsciously. However, it is most commonly the motivation behind essays, advertisements, and political writing, such as speech and propaganda.
2. How to Identify: To identify when the author's purpose is to persuade, students should ask themselves if they feel the writer is trying to get them to believe something or take a specific action. They should learn to identify the various tactics and strategies used in persuasive writing, such as repetition, various types of supporting evidence, hyperbole, attacking opposing viewpoints, forceful phrases, emotive imagery and photographs etc.

To Inform

When the writer's intention is to provide information or educate the reader, they employ expository writing. The writer endeavors to teach in an unbiased manner by presenting or explaining facts. When comparing informative writing and persuasive writing, a common thread can be identified: the utilization of facts. However, these two forms of writing employ facts differently. Unlike persuasive writing, which employs facts to persuade the reader, informative writing employs facts to enlighten the reader about a specific subject. While persuasive writing includes a call to action, informative writing solely employs facts to educate the reader, without attempting to convince them to take a particular course of action. Informative writing solely aims to present factual information about a topic to enhance understanding.

1. Example: Many types of school books are written with the express purpose of informing the reader, such as encyclopedias, recipe books, newspapers and these informative texts.
2. How to Identify: In the process of informing the reader, the author will use facts, which is one surefire way to spot the intent to inform. However, 6 when the author's purpose is persuasion, they will also likely provide the reader with some facts to convince them of the merits of their particular case. The main difference between the two ways facts are employed is that when the intention is to inform, facts are presented only to teach the reader. When the author aims to persuade, they commonly mask their opinions amid the facts.

To Entertain

The primary objective of fiction books, including horror, is to provide entertainment to the reader. Conversely, non-fiction works blend an element of entertainment with informative writing. To provide entertainment, authors strive to create captivating characters, engaging plots, thrilling storylines, and sharp dialogue that keep the reader engrossed. While narratives, poetry, and plays are primarily intended to entertain, they can also possess persuasive or informative elements. However, when these works of fiction incorporate values and ideas, they have a greater potential to alter the reader's perspective. Nevertheless, the dominant purpose should always be to entertain, as a lack of entertainment value can quickly lead to reader disinterest and undermine the informative aspect.

1. Example: Not surprisingly, much fiction is written to entertain, especially genre fiction. For example, we find entertaining examples in science fiction, romance, and fantasy.
2. How to Identify: When writers attempt to entertain or amuse the reader, they use various techniques to engage their attention. They may employ cliffhangers at the end of a chapter, for example. They may weave humour into their story or even have characters tell jokes. In the case of a thriller, an action-packed scene may follow an action-packed scene as the drama builds to a

crescendo. Think of the melodrama of a soap opera here rather than the subtle touch of an arthouse masterpiece.

To Explain

When the writer's objective is to provide explanations, their writing is aimed at instructing the reader on how to perform a task or providing detailed information on the functioning of something. This form of writing focuses on educating readers about a method or process, and the text includes explanations that guide them in understanding how a specific process operates or the steps involved in accomplishing or creating something.

1. Example: Writing to explain can be found in instructions, step-by-step guides, procedural outlines, and recipes such as these.
2. How to Identify: Often, this writing is organized into bulleted or numbered points. As it focuses on telling the reader how to do something, often lots of imperatives will be used within the writing. Diagrams and illustrations are often used to reinforce the text explanations too.

To Describe

When the author's intention is to provide descriptions, they utilize words to enhance and supplement images in portraying something. This form of writing aims to offer a more elaborate depiction, delving deeper into the subject than the saying "a picture is worth a thousand words." The writer employs adjectives and vivid imagery to immerse the reader in a sensory experience, making them feel as though they are personally experiencing it.

1. Example: We can find lots of descriptive writing in obvious places like short stories, novels and other forms of fiction where the writer wishes to paint a picture in the reader's imagination. We can also find lots of writing with the purpose of description in nonfiction too – in product descriptions, descriptive essays or these text types.
2. How to Identify: In the case of fiction writing which describes, the reader will notice the writer using lots of sensory details in the text. Our senses are how we perceive the world, and to describe their imaginary world, writers will draw heavily on language that appeals to these senses. In both fiction and nonfiction, readers will notice the writer will rely heavily on adjectives in their writing.

Main Element And Example Of Author's Purpose

One effective approach to discerning the author's purpose is to carefully examine the entire literary piece. The initial step involves asking the question, "What is the main objective of this work?" Additionally, considering why it was written, who the intended audience is, and the desired impact on readers can provide valuable insights. Another method involves analyzing the text by categorizing different purposes. For instance, if the writer intends to persuade, they may employ rhetorical devices such as logical appeals. Outlined below are the various types of publications primarily driven by each purpose and key indicators to consider when determining the author's intention.

Persuasive Purpose

Persuasion is usually found in non-fiction, but countless other fiction books have also been used to persuade the reader. Propaganda works are top of the list when it comes to persuasion in writing. But we also have other works including:

1. Political speeches
2. Advertisements
3. Infomercial scripts and news editorials meant to persuade the reader
4. Fiction writing whose author has an agenda
5. Essays

How to Identify Persuasive Purpose

When trying to identify persuasion in writing, you should ask yourself if the author is attempting to convince the reader to take a specific course of action. If the author is trying to persuade their readers, they employ several tactics and schemes including hyperboles, forceful phrases, repetition, supporting evidence, imagery, and photographs, and they attack opposing ideas or proponents. please paraphrase.

Informative Purpose

Although some works of fiction are also informative, informative writing is commonly found on non-fiction shelves and dominates academic works. Many types of academic textbooks are written with the primary purpose of informing the reader. Informative writing is generally found in the following:

1. Textbooks
2. Encyclopedias
3. Recipe books
4. Newspapers

How to Identify Informative Purpose

Just like in persuasive writing, the writer will attempt to inform the reader by feeding them facts. So, how can you spot a pure intent to inform? The difference between the two is that an author whose purpose is persuasion is likely going to provide the reader with some facts in an attempt with the primary goal of convincing the reader of the worthwhileness or valuableness of a particular idea, item, situation, 9 et cetera. On the other hand, in informative writing, facts are used to inform and are not sugar-coated by the author's opinion, like is the case when the author's purpose is to persuade.

Entertaining Purpose

Fiction writing is primarily driven by the goal of providing entertainment to readers. Almost every genre, whether it's science fiction, romance, or fantasy, aims to captivate readers with an engrossing narrative that leaves them yearning for more. However, the challenge lies in the subjectivity of what constitutes "entertaining." What one reader finds engaging in a book may not necessarily be as captivating to another. Take, for instance, the distinct forms of entertainment derived from romance novels and science fiction. The pleasure derived from reading a romance novel differs from the excitement experienced while delving into the realms of science fiction. Although entertainment is commonly associated with fiction, non-fiction works also incorporate storytelling techniques intermittently to effectively engage readers and convey specific messages.

How to Identify Entertaining Purpose

Identifying works meant to entertain is fairly easy: When an author intends to entertain or amuse the reader, they use a variety of schemes aimed at getting the readers engaged. The author may insert some humor into their narrative or use dialogue to weave in some jokes. The writer may also use cliffhangers at the end of a page or chapter to keep the reader interested in the story.

Explaining Purpose

Authors also engage in writing to provide explanations and insights, particularly within the realm of non-fiction. In the non-fiction category, it is common for authors to focus on elucidating a particular subject or concept. Additionally, even in fiction writing, authors may incorporate elements of explanation, not solely for the purpose of conveying information, but rather to aid readers in comprehending the storyline, events, settings, or characters. This purpose of explanation prominently emerges in various types of literature, such as instructional books (e.g., how-to guides), texts featuring recipes, DIY (do-it-yourself) manuals, orientation materials for companies or educational institutions, and similar works.

How to Identify Explaining Purpose

Texts with explaining purpose typically have a list of points (using a numbered or bulleted format), use infographics, diagrams, or illustrations. Explaining purpose also contains a lot of verbs that try to convey directions, instructions, or guidelines.

Style and intended audience

Every writer possesses distinct characteristics when it comes to crafting articles or essays. Some authors may rely on numerous examples, while others prefer to use only a few. Sentence length and complexity also vary, with some authors favoring shorter sentences and others employing longer, intricate ones. These unique characteristics that define a writer's work are referred to as style (McWhorter, 1986:223). Style refers to the manner in which something is written, distinct from the actual meaning of the text.

However, in writing, these two aspects are closely intertwined. As the vehicle for conveying meaning, style greatly influences the reader's perception of the information itself. Style encompasses elements such as word choice (diction) and the overall attitude conveyed (tone). The primary objective of considering style is to present information in a manner that is suitable for both the intended audience and the purpose of the writing. Consistency is key, as switching styles can distract readers and undermine the paper's argument's credibility. Writers may adjust their style to cater to their target audience. The target audience refers to the individual or group of people for whom a piece of writing is intended. In other words, it is crucial for a writer to identify who will be reading their work. This audience represents the specific individuals the writer intends to reach or connect with. By understanding the target audience, the writer can shape both the purpose and tone of the writing to align with the audience's needs and, at times, expectations. A writer has the option to target a general audience, which includes individuals interested in the subject but who are not experts, such as readers of newspapers and periodicals. Alternatively, a writer may have a specific interest group in mind, like the Journal of American Medicine. Writers can also tailor their writing to cater to an audience with particular political, moral, or religious beliefs. The intended audience significantly influences the language level, word choice, and presentation style used by the author. Understanding the target audience for an essay or article is crucial because it determines the content that will be included. While having a focused topic is important, considering the specific audience is equally essential.

4. CONCLUSION

An author's intention or motive should extend beyond mere entertainment of the reader; it should transcend storytelling. Many authors share stories with diverse objectives in mind. Some aim to educate, provoke thoughts and discussions, or offer solace to those facing similar challenges. As for myself, I write an article on the various types of author's purpose with the hope of influencing your writing style. When authors intend to publish their work, they must consider the needs, interests, and purposes of their audience. It is essential for authors to create pieces that not only captivate readers but also provide value to them. A lot of authors tell stories to accomplish different objectives some want to teach, provoke thought and debate, or show people that they're not alone in their struggles. Others like yours truly write an article about the different types of Author's purpose and hope it changes your writing style accordingly. Authors must take their audience's needs and interests into account, as well as their purposes for writing when writing something they intend to publish. The author should find a way to make a piece that both generates interest as well as provides value to their reader.

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