

## The Impact of the Major Narratological Techniques Used by Gabriel Garcia Marquez in Chronicle of a Death Foretold

**M. Annie Shiny, Dr. K. Radah**

Ph.D Research Scholar, Department of English, Thanthai Periyar  
Government Arts and Science College (Affiliated to Bharathisadan  
University, Tiruchirappalli), Tamil Nadu, India. - 620023

Assistant Professor & Research Advisor, Department of English,  
Thanthai Periyar Government Arts and Science College (Affiliated to  
Bharathisadan University, Tiruchirappalli), Tamil Nadu, India. - 620023

**Corresponding author: M. Annie Shiny**

Ph.D Research Scholar, Department of English, Thanthai Periyar  
Government Arts and Science College (Affiliated to Bharathisadan  
University, Tiruchirappalli), Tamil Nadu, India. - 620023

ONOMÁZEIN 62 (December 2023): 340-342  
ISSN: 0718-5758



## Abstract

The paper critically makes an analysis of the impact of the major techniques/tools used by Gabriel Garcia Marquez's novel the Chronicle of a Death Foretold. It explicates how well the author skillfully employs his narratological style to present the story line. It also highlights the significant difference the author makes among his contemporaries.

Keywords: narratological style, techniques, tools, explicates, story line, significant difference, contemporaries

## 1. Introduction

The word narratology originally comes from the French origin "narratologie" and in the present context namely the prototypical kind of narrative (Monica Fludemic 2009) of the study the word narratology primarily concerned with the way in which the story is narrated or told in a particular structure/method by the narrator of the story. In other words it deals the ways and means employed by the author to structure/ convey/interpret the point of view/perspective/his or her story. Though it seems to be a very simple definition it highlights the significant purpose of narratology. The intellectual tradition out of narratology grew with the linguistic work of Ferdinand de Saussure (Pradl Gordon 1984) it has evolved into a new method for critically analyzing a work of art. Hence, one can perceive that narratology is the study of narrative forms and not just a sequence of events as found in simple narratives.

This paper attempts to study the narratological elements/forms/methods used by Gabriel Garcia Marquez's novel the chronicle of a death foretold. It also attempts to provide an overall/comprehensive view of the novel from the point of view of narratological techniques employed by the author. In addition to that it highlights how well the story is successfully developed and communicated with a help of a specific narratological technique used by Gabriel Marquez.

## 2. Background to the paper and the narrative style of Gabriel Marquez

Gabriel Marquez one of the well known writers of Colombia, known for his specific style of narration. The novel, the Chronicle of a Death foretold is written based on an original incident taken from the history. Marquez known for his magical realism makes use of this to a great extent. Unlike the other novelists, Gabriel Garcia Marquez develops the plot around two sub plots. The action of the novel takes the reader to two different time zones one about the death of the main character Santiago Nasar and the developments that take place after the death and before the death. The reader is left to assume the story line back and forth. The flash back and the present go hand in hand. Though it would, (at the outset), cause initial confusion among the readers, Marquez skillfully develops the suspense in the readers mind till the end.

The entire story is skillfully narrated in the reverse chronological order. Possibly this is one of the major techniques used to attract the attention of the readers. In this way the readers go through the story trying to connect to the main plot by thinking the following questions? what is the motive behind the murder? or for what reason the protagonist is going to be killed by the murderers? From the point of view of these angles the readers are made to sit looking for the answer, rather eagerly skimming as well as scanning through the willing suspension of disbelief. (Coleridge)

The Central Theme

The restoration of the honour of the Vicario family is the central theme around which the murder of Santiago Nasar takes place. When Angela is rejected by her husband for having lost her virginity before marriage the entire family's honour is jeopardized and this could only be restored or recovered by killing Santiago, the protagonist who allegedly dishonoured Angela before her legal marriage.

The Techniques Employed by Marquez

In some of the Marquez's novels the narrative structure starts from the end of the story (i.e. climax) and trace the developments in each chapter. The same is the case for the present context of the study on Chronicle of a Death Foretold

At the outset, the readers are told about the possible murder of the protagonist at the hand of villains then in the second chapter one is revealed about the sub plot of the Angela Vicaria and the handsome and romantic Bayardo San Roman. The readers are able to sense the reason why the Santiago Nasar is targeted. In every stage and event of the story one is able to travel fast to the culmination of the death to happen but it never happens. It happens at the very end of the novel. Hence one can see the strategy of Gabriel to make the reader get obsessed with the possible death of the protagonist and one gets a feeling when will it come? At last the final result comes and presented to the reader. With this frame work the narrator clinically takes the reader to his control. The reader begins to feel sorry for the hero, heroine and the villain. The hero for his innocence, the heroine for her pathetic state and the villains for their rightful choice to take revenge to re establish the family's honour. All this happens in the mind of the reader in a non linear way. This is because of the mixing of the events from the past and the present. The narrator presents the whole action in a subtle manner and truth about the revenge of the brothers of Angelo is known to almost to everyone expect the hero. In this way also the reader's suspense is maintained till the end. In fact the readers mind is desperately expecting someone to reveal the whole truth to Santiago Nasar. In fact this kind of sympathy develops in the mind of the readers from the very first line of the novel "On the day they were going to kill him Santiago Nasar got up at five thirty in the morning to wait for the boat the bishop was coming on" (Gabriel Garcia Marquez)

The rising action of the story develops around the revenge plan of the Vicario brothers who openly claim to take revenge of Santiago Nasar for molesting their sister Angela Vicario before she is legally married to Bayardo San Roman.

### 3. Conclusion

Thus as readers we could find the impact of the narrative techniques of Gabriel, presenting the reverse chronological order of the events of the main plot, (in contrast to the traditional/logical sequence of events of the plot) and his skillful use of the said technique may be considered as an effective tool for his success with reference to the novel Chronicle of a Death foretold.

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