

**ang070/ang071: S/Ü "Introduction to the Critical and Scholarly Discussion of Literature"
Assignment 3: "Analysing Fiction"**

This assignment is a mandatory part of your portfolio and needs to be handed in on time. It is ungraded but a sample solution will be published on the Institutswiki. Additionally, you can receive feedback in the office hours of your respective instructors.

Please make sure to submit your assignment stapled together but not bound in any folder. Every assignment must include a cover sheet and the statement on plagiarism. Present your results in complete sentences. You may write up to three pages of text, according to the formatting specifications of our style sheet. Any text beyond the first three pages will be ignored.

We have slightly abbreviated the passage this time. Please, analyse the given passage as follows:

"Next day I left that station at last, with a caravan of sixty men, for a two-hundred-mile tramp. No use telling you much about that. Paths, paths, everywhere; [...]. I had a white companion too, not a bad chap, but rather too fleshy and with the exasperating habit of fainting on the hot hillsides miles away from the least bit of shade and water. Annoying, you know, to hold your own coat like a parasol over a man's head while he is coming to. I couldn't help asking him once what he meant by coming there at all. 'To make money, of course. What do you think?' he said scornfully. Then he got fever and had to be carried in a hammock slung under a pole. As he weighed sixteen stone I had no end of rows with the carriers. They jibbed, ran away, sneaked off with the loads in the night – quite a mutiny. So, one evening I made a speech in English with gestures, not one of which was lost to the sixty pairs of eyes before me, and the next morning I started the hammock off in front all right. An hour afterwards I came upon the whole concern wrecked in a bush – man, hammock, groans, blankets, horrors. The heavy pole had skinned his poor nose. He was very anxious for me to kill somebody, but there wasn't the shadow of a carrier near. I remembered the old doctor – 'It would be interesting for science to watch the mental changes of individuals on the spot.' I felt I was becoming scientifically interesting. However, all that is to no purpose. On the fifteenth day, I came in sight of the big river again and hobbled into [] the Central Station. [...]" (Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness and Other Tales*. Oxford: OUP, 2008. Print.121-2)

Formal and Media-specific Analysis

(1) Narration

(a) Preliminary Contextualisation: On the basis of your knowledge of the entire text, please identify the two main narrators in Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and categorise each narrator according to narrative level and extent of participation.

(b) Identify and categorize the narrator of this passage according to the typology of narrators and comment on the function of the narrative level.

(2) Focalization: Identify and comment on the use of focalization in the given passage.

(3) Characterization: Who is characterized by whom and with what techniques?

Functional Analysis: Toward a Problem-oriented Sample Analysis

Build your functional analysis on the data generated through your formal analysis and suggest a possible problem orientation:

(4) Formulate a research problem on the basis of your formal analysis and

(5) Produce a close reading of the passage that is sensitive to relevant contexts and references suitable secondary material.

Comparison: Correspondence and/or Contrast

(6) Suggest one other passage from the novel that corresponds and/or contrasts with the given passage in an aspect relevant to the research problem you have specified.

(7) Briefly discuss how both passages relate to this problem. Address potential differences in representation and their possible functions.

Lecture

(8) Use the MLA to compile a bibliography of six scholarly sources including journal articles, book chapters and monographs on "colonialism" in Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. Format the sources according to our style sheet and attach the bibliography to your three-page assignment.