

Circle of Voices Handout

What is Voice in Writing?—or How Does Authorship Work?

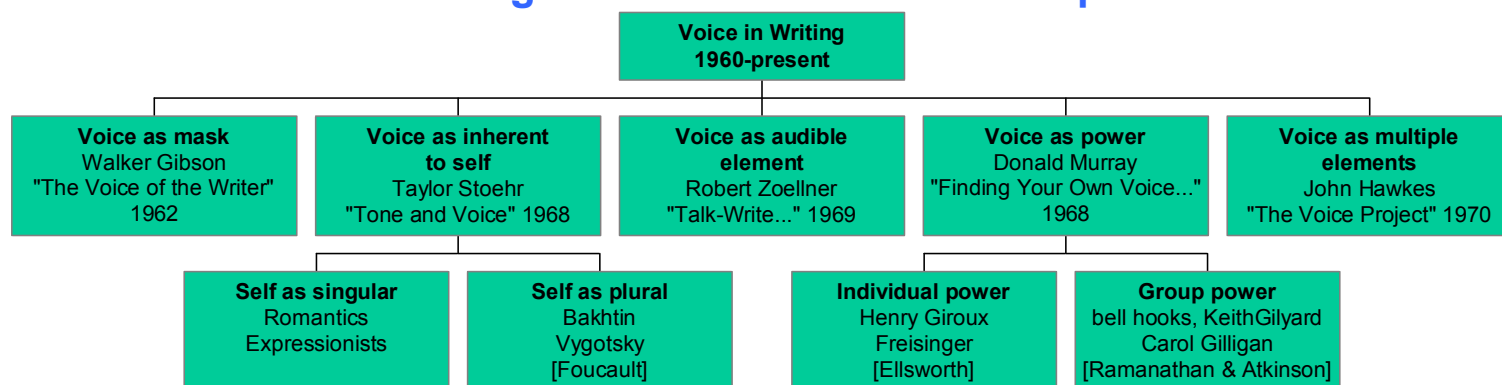


Chart is from my Master's Thesis "Voice(s) in Writing: Pedagogical Implications of Exploring Multiple Definitions" (2002)

Important Concepts Behind these Definitions of Voice

- Individualism/Expressivism
- Social Constructivism
- Sociolinguistic's idea of discourse communities
- Critical Theory & Pedagogy
- Post-modernism

Questions:

1. How do the above answers to "what is voice" compare to your own answers?
2. What voices have you developed in the last 18 to 20 years?
3. What communities have helped to shape your 'inherent' voice?
 - How would you describe your voice?
4. How does written voice affect how you read researched articles?
5. Is it ever valuable to you to hear your written voice spoken? If so, when?

For further thought as a writer and as a student:

- ◆ Who is more important—the author or the reader? To what degree is each important?
- ◆ Is it possible for identity to be evident within writing? What role does the reader play in shaping that identity?
- ◆ Have you ever, as a student, been asked to reproduce voices of others? What were those writing experiences like? What do you think you learned from those experiences of writing? What sorts of readers would have found those pieces of writing appealing?
- ◆ Have you ever, as a student, written on a topic of interest and importance to you in a voice that was comfortable and natural for you? When? What were those writing experiences like? What do you think you learned from those experiences of writing? What sorts of readers would have found those pieces of writing appealing?
- ◆ How can voice be used by the powerful?

Finally:

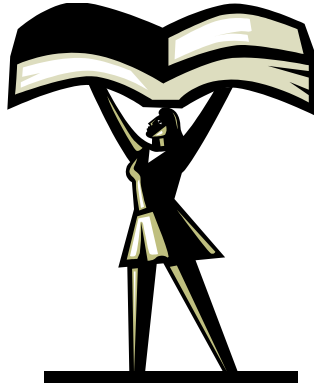
- ✓ What are the implications of voice in writing for your future work as researchers and writers?

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- ✓ What choices will you make about voice in writing for your article (burning to share piece)?

Paying attention to how you write, who you write to, and why we write the way we do.

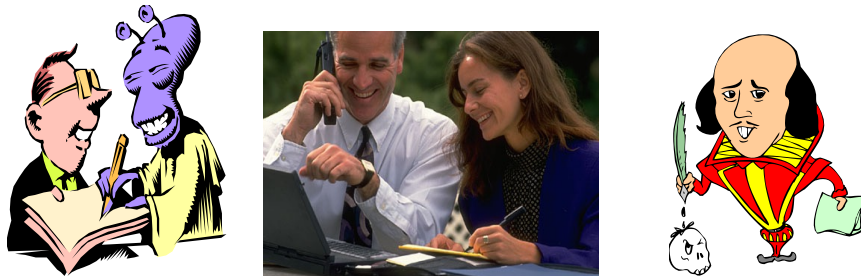
The significance of the writer



The writer's role(s)



The society/societies of the writer



How a reader “hears” text.

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