(Hurston, *Eyes* 75-76)

**3RD PERSON FREE INDIRECT DISCOURSE (PERSONAL)**

**JOE’S THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS WHEN JANIE TEASES HIM ABOUT HIS MANHOOD IN FRONT OF THIS FRIENDS.**

***The narrative is a combination of narrator’s educated syntax and vocabulary and Joe’s own vernacular as he considers the consequences he will have to live with:***

“Janie had robbed him of his illusion of irresistible maleness that all men cherish, which was terrible.“ … “When he paraded his possessions hereafter, they would not consider the two together. They’d look with envy at the things and pity the man that owned them. When he sat in judgment is would be the same. Good-for-nothing’s like Dave and Lum and Jim wouldn’t change place with him. For what can excuse a man in the eyes of other men for lack of strength? Raggedy-behind squirts of sixteen and seventeen would be giving him their merciless pity out of their eyes while their mouths said something else. There was nothing to do in life anymore. Ambition was useless. And the cruel deceit of Janie! Making all that show of humbleness and scorning him all the time!”

*“*which was terrible*”* ***is Joe’s persona, not the narrator’s.***

“Good-for-nothing’s” and “raggedy-behind squirts*” are Joe’s vernacular and feelings.*

*“*And the cruel deceit of Janie! Making all that show of humbleness and scorning him all the time*!”* ***The exclamations are Joe’s hurt feelings, not the narrator’s explanation of the reason Joe resorts to violence against Janie.***

***In those same sentences, the narrator’s voice merges with Joe’s. The narrator’s voice is conscious thought. Joe’s voice is unconscious feeling:*** *“*For what can excuse a man in the eyes of other men for lack of strength?” **The undeserving bucks in the community would be showing Joe** “their merciless pity out of their eyes while their mouths said something humble.*”* ***The syntax is the narrator articulating feelings Joe has but might not be willing to recognize and certainly wouldn’t be able to articulate.***

***The combination produces credibility. Joe’s emotional experience is valid and strong. The narrator’s educated, objective voice establishes the reasoning behind Joe’s feelings and violence. But Joe’s vernacular portrays in a more personal, painful way his humiliation more powerfully than would have occurred had Hurston used only 3rd person omniscient voice.***

***Maybe it’s a very effective way to move this particular plot and story forward but perhaps it’s also a way of establishing a credible justification for the violence that seems to be accepted and prevalent in the black community. And not just black community--the factors that influence all behavior.***

***The reasons and/or history may be able to be explained in rational, educated, objective terms, but the feelings and personal experience can’t be removed. Regardless of how many times a thing occurs, and for whatever reasons, the personal experience is profound and unique each time to each person.***