Narration

Who is the narrator talking to? This question really has three answers:

1. Direct narration - The narrator can talk directly to the reader.
2. Frame narration - A form of direct narration, this is where the narrator tells us someone else's story. Although the story is technically told in the first person, we see more of the third person.
3. Indirect narration - The narrator may not be talking to us. The narrator may be talking to a nebulous, or absent audience, telling for the sake of telling a story.

Read the following three versions of the Raymond Queneau story and state which form of narration is used in each. Comment on the effects of each in the table on the following page.

**Version 1**
Let me tell you about this incident: On the S bus, in the rush hour there was a chap of about twenty-six. He had a soft hat with a cord instead of a ribbon. His neck too long, as if someone had been tugging at it. People were getting off. The chap in question got rather annoyed with one of the men standing next to him. He accused him of jostling him every time anyone went past. He had a snivelling tone which was meant to be aggressive. When he saw a vacant seat he threw himself onto it. It made a lasting impression on me. I'll always associate those hats with rude people.

**Version 2**
How tightly packed in we were on that bus platform! And how stupid and ridiculous that young man looked! And what was he doing? Well, if he wasn't actually trying to pick a quarrel with a chap who - so he claimed, the young fop! - kept on pushing him! And then he didn't find anything better to do than to rush off and grab a seat which had become free! Instead of leaving it for a lady!

**Version 3**
Midday was struck on the clock. The bus was being got onto by passengers. They were being squashed together. A hat was being worn on the head of a young gentleman, which had was encircled by a plait and not by a ribbon. A long neck was sported by the young gentleman. The man standing next to him was being grumbled at by the latter because of the jostling which was being inflicted on him by him. As soon as a vacant seat was espied by the young gentleman, it was made the object of his precipitate movements and it became sat down upon.
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<th>Version</th>
<th>Which form of narration is used? Comment on the effects of narration in each story.</th>
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