

International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

Golden Research Thoughts

Chief Editor
Dr.Tukaram Narayan Shinde

Publisher
Mrs.Laxmi Ashok Yakkaldevi

Associate Editor
Dr.Rajani Dalvi

Honorary
Mr.Ashok Yakkaldevi

Golden Research Thoughts Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

Regional Editor

Dr. T. Manichander

International Advisory Board

Kamani Perera
Regional Center For Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka

Mohammad Hailat
Dept. of Mathematical Sciences,
University of South Carolina Aiken

Hasan Baktir
English Language and Literature
Department, Kayseri

Janaki Sinnasamy
Librarian, University of Malaya

Abdullah Sabbagh
Engineering Studies, Sydney

Ghayoor Abbas Chotana
Dept of Chemistry, Lahore University of
Management Sciences[PK]

Romona Mihaila
Spiru Haret University, Romania

Ecaterina Patrascu
Spiru Haret University, Bucharest

Anna Maria Constantinovici
AL. I. Cuza University, Romania

Delia Serbescu
Spiru Haret University, Bucharest,
Romania

Loredana Bosca
Spiru Haret University, Romania

Ilie Pinteau,
Spiru Haret University, Romania

Anurag Misra
DBS College, Kanpur

Fabricio Moraes de Almeida
Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil

Xiaohua Yang
PhD, USA

Titus PopPhD, Partium Christian
University, Oradea, Romania

George - Calin SERITAN
Faculty of Philosophy and Socio-Political
Sciences Al. I. Cuza University, Iasi

.....More

Editorial Board

Pratap Vyamktrao Naikwade
ASP College Devrukh, Ratnagiri, MS India Ex - VC. Solapur University, Solapur

Iresh Swami
Ex. Prin. Dayanand College, Solapur

Rajendra Shendge
Director, B.C.U.D. Solapur University,
Solapur

R. R. Patil
Head Geology Department Solapur
University, Solapur

N.S. Dhaygude
Ex. Prin. Dayanand College, Solapur

R. R. Yaliker
Director Management Institute, Solapur

Rama Bhosale
Prin. and Jt. Director Higher Education,
Panvel

Narendra Kadu
Jt. Director Higher Education, Pune
K. M. Bhandarkar
Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia

Umesh Rajderkar
Head Humanities & Social Science
YCMOU, Nashik

Salve R. N.
Department of Sociology, Shivaji
University, Kolhapur

Sonal Singh
Vikram University, Ujjain

S. R. Pandya
Head Education Dept. Mumbai University,
Mumbai

Govind P. Shinde
Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance
Education Center, Navi Mumbai

G. P. Patankar
S. D. M. Degree College, Honavar, Karnataka

Alka Darshan Shrivastava
Shaskiya Snatkottar Mahavidyalaya, Dhar

Chakane Sanjay Dnyaneshwar
Arts, Science & Commerce College,
Indapur, Pune

Maj. S. Bakhtiar Choudhary
Director, Hyderabad AP India.

Rahul Shriram Sudke
Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore

Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya
Secretary, Play India Play, Meerut (U.P.)

S. Parvathi Devi
Ph.D.-University of Allahabad

S.KANNAN
Annamalai University, TN

Sonal Singh,
Vikram University, Ujjain

Satish Kumar Kalhotra
Maulana Azad National Urdu University



A PRAGMATIC CONCERN TO BECKETT'S *THE ENDGAME*

Dr. H. K. Awatade

Dept. of English and Linguistics , Shankarro Mohite Mahavidyalaya, Akluj ,
Dist.-Solapur (India)

Abstract:*-The aim of the present paper is to explore the nature and function of the Co-operative Principle in literature in general and in absurd drama in particular. An attempt is made to examine, scrutinize and analyze the pieces of conversation replete with both the observance and violation of the Co-operative Principle which is a pragmatic entity, in Beckett's selected play. The researcher has selected The Endgame for the purpose of analysis; various conversational passages from this play have been selected.*

Keywords:Pragmatics, Endgame, absurdity.

INTRODUCTION :-

Pragmatics, as a theory, seeks to characterize how speakers use the words, phrases and sentences for an effective and successful communication. In a sense, the ability to understand another speaker's intended meaning is called Pragmatic Competence. The relationship between language and context is studied by Pragmatics. Language gains meaning from context. Pragmatics studies how utterances have different meanings in diverse contexts and situations. There are varieties of communicative strategies which can be identified in absurd plays. At this juncture, the Co-operative Principle, a pragmatic entity, may help at a great deal to understand and comprehend the absurd drama, especially Beckett's play in a far better way. The play opens with after an unknown tragedy where we get Hamm, his servant Clov, his father Nagg and his mother Nell who are spell bounded collectively in Hamm's house. There are two garbage bins roofed in sheets. In the centre of the room we see Hamm, placed in wheelchair and sheltered in a sheet. He is blind. There are two windows at the back of the room and kitchen is at the left. Clov, servant of Hamm comes and opens the curtains on the windows and pulls the sheets off the other characters and moves to his kitchen.

As soon as Hamm wakes up he shouts for Clov and they start discussing about the possibility of things ending. At one instance, Hamm enquires why Clov doesn't depart from him, to which he gets the answer as there is no one else. At the next instance, Hamm asks why Clov doesn't kill him and gets a reply as he is unknown about the combination to the cupboard. After some time, Nell and Nagg appear on the scene from the junk bins. Nagg desires to be kissed and scratched by Nell who is not eager to do so. Nagg even tries to cheer her up with his joke but gets discouraged with irresponsive Nell. Finally, being disheartened both go back to their bins. In the next moment Hamm shouts for Clov to pull his wheelchair and to move around the room. When they reach at the original place of move, Hamm behaves fanatically with the feeling of being in the exact midpoint of the room.

Clov gets order from Hamm to peep out of window and report about what he sees which turns to be nothing. Clov grumbles to Hamm that he is waried of their farce day by day. They continue meaningless speech and deeds. They got an encounter with a flea to which Clov kills radically with a can of insecticide. Hamm claims that Clov can't leave him to which Clov admits as true. In the next moment, Clov gets order from Hamm to kill him and Hamm refuses to it. Then Clov is demanded to bring a stuffed dog to which Hamm wants to set beside his wheelchair. He wishes to see it gazing at him in a begging pose. Clov gets it for him. Hamm was accused by Clov for not providing the oil for the lamp to an old woman named Mother Pegg. However, Hamm attempts to refuse his charge. Clov feels amused of his own behavior that he never denies Hamm's orders and Hamm, says that it is not possible for him. Hamm, remembers a madman whom he knew who was of view that entire world was ashes. However, Hamm labels his case as not unusual. They keep their debate on.

Hamm expects tha Nagg, his father, will pay attention to his story and Nagg agrees for it with the condition of getting a sugarplum. In the hesitating manner, Hamm could complete his story of bringing clov from his father. Towards the end of the story, it is cleared by Hamm to Nagg that there are no more sugarplums. In response, Nagg abuses him and goes back to his bin.

Clov is ordered by Hamn to get his dog again. He starts his work of keeping the things in order around the room as order is his dream. Hamn wishes Clov to see his parents and they come to know that mother Nell is dead. They find Nagg who is weeping in his trash bin and shows no mark of compassion for him. Hamn continues his question series and asks Clov as whether he has ever been happy and gets negative reply. In a mood of wantonness Hamn asks Clov to kiss him but Clov again refuses. Clov feels highly annoyed when he gets the repeated order of brining his stuffed dog. He runs towards him and hits him with it.

Towards the end of the play, Hamn declares that he no more needs Clov to be with him. He expects some goodbye words for self to hold his heart. Clov remembers the promises made by people to him during his growing stage and thinks about his happiness. Clov moves to the kitchen after his talk. Hamn shouts for him but doesn't get any response. He calls for his father too and fails to get any reply. Hamn thinks that whatever happened is good and throws away his belongings. He gives a short speech on the nature of ending and spreads his handkerchief on his face to cover it. It is seen that Clov has stood in the doorway as like moving outside but remains immobile.

THE THEORY OF CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLE

Co-operative Principle, by H.P.Grice, an American Philosopher, is assumed as the basic concept in Pragmatics, guiding communication. Observing the Co-operative Principle proves to be helpful for people to improve the flexibility and accuracy in language communication. Grice defines The Co-operative Principle as,

"Make your contribution such as required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged". (1975:45)

Grice proposed this key concept in Pragmatics, in the William James Lecture Series, delivered at Harvard in 1967 and partially published (Grice, 1975). According to Grice, The Co-operative Principle refers to how people interact with each other. The principle aims at the people's normal behavior through effective and efficient use of language in conversation to cooperative ends.

Grice identified four principles, which are called as the maxims of conversation too, underlying the effective use of language. The maxims can be stated as follows:

1) The Maxim of Quality (Try to make your contribution one that is true, specifically)

Do not say what you believe to be false.

Do not say for which you lack adequate evidence.

2) The Maxim of Quantity (Concerning the amount of information to be conveyed):

Make your contribution as informative as is required.

Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.

3) The Maxim of Relevance (Make your contribution relevant)

4) The Maxim of Manner (Concerning not so much what is said as how it is said, be perspicuous)

Avoid ambiguity

Avoid obscurity of expression.

Be brief (Avoid unnecessary prolixity).

Be orderly.

OBSERVANCE AND VIOLATION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLE

The speakers normally try to satisfy the four maxims of the Co-operative Principle in order to observe it. Response is the core part in the conversation. A compliment should be politely accepted or tactfully rejected, a question should be answered or an invitation should be accepted or declined. The listener, in this way is expected to observe the Co-operative Principle. If he does not do so, he seems to be uncooperative and in this sense, he violates The Co-operative Principle. A maxim can be observed or violated for the communicative purposes. Grice calls the violation of the maxims as 'flouting' or 'exploitation' of maxims. Let us see how the maxims can be observed or violated.

The sentence "John has two cars" implicate that the speaker believes that John has two cars and has the adequate evidence for it. This is an example of the observance of the Maxim of Quality. On the contrary, "John flies aeroplane in water" is an example of violation of the Maxim of Quality as it is a false statement and nobody has the adequate evidence for it. In the following dialogue, we can note that the Maxim of Quantity has been observed.

A: Where were you yesterday night?

B: In the clubhouse.

On the contrary, if the speaker B gives the answer like "I was in college in the beginning but moved to cinema in the afternoon and then came to clubhouse at night." It can be said that the speaker B has violated the Maxim of Quantity.

We can note the observance of the Maxim of Manner in the following dialogue.

A: What are you reading?

B: I am reading a novel.

In this dialogue, the speaker B has given the answer to the question of the speaker A in brief and without any ambiguity. Therefore, he has followed the Maxim of Manner. However, in the following dialogue, the violation of the Maxim of Manner can be noted.

A: What are you reading?
B: I am reading a face.

The speaker B has given the ambiguous answer and has violated the Maxim of Manner.
The Maxim of Relevance can also be seen as followed or observed,

For example: A: Where is my pocket?
B: On your table.

The speaker B in the above dialogue has given the relevant answer to the question of the speaker A and has observed the Maxim of Relevance. On the contrary, if he would have given the answer like, "I have taken my lunch" or any other irrelevant answer, it would be a violation of the Maxim of Manner.

It is said that conversation would be most successful if the Co-operative Principle and these maxims would be complied with. However, people always violate this principle and these maxims, which make the conversation partially successful or simply a failure.

ANALYSIS OF *THE ENDGAME*

The Endgame is notable for its novel experimental language by Beckett. The four characters namely Hamn who is the master, Clov who is servant to Clov, Nagg who is father of Hamn and Nell who is mother of Hamn are the residents of a small room which is quite bare and partially underground. It is even amusing that father and mother of Hamn, live in garbage cans. Hamn is physically disabled and cannot move without his wheelchair. Clov helps him to move around the room and he is able to obtain objects and can peep out of window for the signs of life. Like the true absurd play we can site as nothing happens in the play and everything seems lifeless outside the window too. Each and every character bears the fear of end and dreams about any possible change. The very thought of *The Endgame* has been adopted from the game of chess where own perception decides the end of the game. The play depicts universe which is near to its end with certainty as well as uncertainty. In this way, the very concept of meaninglessness which is the crux of absurd theatre has been expressed and efforts have been made to find out meaning out of meaninglessness for which researcher has applied Grice's The Cooperative Principle (CP) to the conversational exchanges.

The researcher has applied CP to conversational exchanges which seem to be pretentious. It's really an amusing experience to analyze conversational exchanges in this play cooperation as well as violations of the CP. The protagonists of the play Hamn and Clov have a bloodsucking association where both are dependent on each other. One cannot imagine his own existence without another. In addition, outside world is moving in the shadow of disaster although its movement is slow. Researcher has noticed incoherent conversational exchanges through which the play proceeds and gets a number of instances where topics of discussion are often being changed. It is worth to mention that Clov and Hamn explore weak affection to each other.

The play opens with Hamn and Clov pondering on their controversial attitude. At the very next instance, both reach towards confrontational manner where Clov scolds Hamn, "I can't be getting you up and putting you to bed every five minutes, I have things to do." Here, Clov violates the maxim of manner which indicates to avoid obscurity of expression. The very purpose of his violation is his weirdness of his routine work as he is the servant to Hamn.

There are many instances of an unexpected change in the topic of ongoing conversation leading to the violation of CP which expects orderliness without any ambiguity. The characters in this play cannot stick to one topic of conversation for a considerable time. It is noticeable that Hamn is prominent lecturer possessing talkative nature. His servant Clov is reasonably less talkative who gives answers to the endless question of his master. Though they do not have any kind of warmth in their relationship, they are interwoven together with a binding thread of recurrent queries by Hamn. A question "Is it not time for my pain-killer?" has been asked by Hamn for many times to Clov. Throughout the play, Clov replies negatively but towards the end of play he gives assertive answer for once. Hamn's repetitive question is a violation of quantity maxim. He violates this maxim due to his insecure feelings about Clov's absence. He cannot imagine his existence without Clov.

NOTES AND REFERENCES:

1. Grice, H. P. (1975). *Logic And Conversation*, In P. Cole and J. Morgan (eds) *Studies in Syntax and Semantics III: Speech Acts*, New York: Academic Press, pp. 183-98.
2. Beckett, Samuel (1958). *The Endgame*. The Endgame and Act without Words, New York: Grove Press

Publish Research Article

International Level Multidisciplinary Research Journal For All Subjects

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Book Review for publication, you will be pleased to know that our journals are

Associated and Indexed, India

- * International Scientific Journal Consortium
- * OPEN J-GATE

Associated and Indexed, USA

- EBSCO
- Index Copernicus
- Publication Index
- Academic Journal Database
- Contemporary Research Index
- Academic Paper Database
- Digital Journals Database
- Current Index to Scholarly Journals
- Elite Scientific Journal Archive
- Directory Of Academic Resources
- Scholar Journal Index
- Recent Science Index
- Scientific Resources Database
- Directory Of Research Journal Indexing

Golden Research Thoughts
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005, Maharashtra
Contact-9595359435
E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com
Website : www.aygrt.isrj.org