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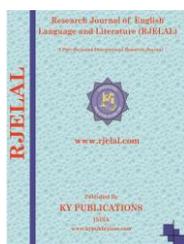
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LANGUAGE OF LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

Poetry is a form of literature that uses rhythmic and aesthetic behaviour of language such as phonaesthetics. It uses conventions and forms to refer various interpretations to words. The use of symbolism and other stylistic elements of poetic diction often leaves a poem open to multiple interpretations. Similarly figures of speech such as metaphor create a resonance between otherwise disparate images – A layering of meanings, forming connections previously not perceived. Poetry types are particular cultures and genres and respond to characteristic of the language in which poet writes. Much modern poetry reflects a critique of poetic tradition, playing with and testing among other things the principle of euphony itself, sometimes altogether forgoing rhyme or set rhythm.

Key words:- Rhythmic, Metaphor, Euphony, Disparate images

INTRODUCTION

English literature is a broad term used in various fields. It shows to the body of work written or spoken in the English language. It combines poetry prose and oral traditions. Shakespeare's presentation of women in his dramas expresses his feelings towards the role of women in the society. As our guide to the type of female roles in Shakespeare demonstrates, woman had less freedom than their male counterparts in Shakespeare's time. It is well known that women were not allowed on the stage during Shakespeare's active years. All of his famous roles like Desdemona and Juliette were in fact once played by men!

Discussion

Great poets dramatists novelists and essayists used language comfortably with a purpose. They knew how and where to use a word. There is a saying in English, "we follow grammar whereas grammar follows Shakespeare". It is true that great poets throughout the world use language freely.

"Upama kalidasasya Bharaver Artha Gauravam

Dandinah Pada Lalithya Maghe Santhi Thrayo guna"

[Kalidasa excels in the use of similes; Bharavi is known for his use of words which contain wonderful meaning; Dandin is famous for his melody of words; Maagha possesses all the above three qualities]

Kalidasa's description of Shakuntala as 'Anaaghraata Pushpham' [ the unsmelt flower ] brings out the chastity of virgin shakuntala. The comparison is apt. In his "RAGHU VAMASAM" Kalidasa used suitable words to describe the beauty of Indumathi as 'Light of Fire' which dispels darkness:

"Sancharini Deepa SikhaivaRaathrau YemYemVyati Yaya Pathim Varasaa"

Bharavi used language with wonderful command. His words contain deep meaning. The following is a fine example of his use of language where he describes the importance of his alert and slow and steady. In his "Kiraatharjuneeyam" we find the following aphoristic statement:

"Sahasa Viditeta Na Kriyam

Avivekaha Paramam Padaam Padam"

[ we should not do any work without thinking about the pros and cons of it . Ignorance is the root of all problems]

Dandin is known for his use of light-weighted words with inner meaning. In his "Dasakumara Chaitram" he used simple and soft words to express the feeling of negligence and indifference. Bhaskara Varma a character in "Dasakumara Charitham" is criticized by another [ woman] character which is as follows:

"Na Mam Snigdham Pasyati  
Na Smita Poorvam Bhasyate  
Na Rahasyami Vivrunothi  
Na Hasthena Sprusathi"

[ He does not treat me as a friend ]  
He never speaks smilingly with me.  
He never reveals secrets to me.  
He never touches me with his hand.

Geoffery Chaucer used language which was a composite, made up of different dialects .It was made up of different dialects of the neighbouring countries. His English was influenced by the East Midland Dialect .The following is a fine example from his "Canterbury tales":

"With us there was a doctor of Phisik,  
In all this world he was there noon  
Hym like  
To speke of phisik and of sugerye  
For he was grounded in astronomye,  
He kepte his pacient a ful great deel  
In his houres, by his magyk natureel"

Edmund Spenser used beautiful and majestic language. It is evident in his "The Faerie Queene-Book II"

"A lovely ladie rode him faerie beside,  
Upon a lowly asse more white then snow,  
yet she much whiter, but the same did hide  
under a vele, that whimpled was full low,

Christopher Marlowe, one of the greatest English dramatists used the language with great command.In his "Doctor Faustus" Faustus, the hero is bewitched by the enchanting beauty of Helen. Marlowe makes Faustus speak wonderful poetry which is highly picturesque:

"Was this the face that launched a thousand Ships,  
And burnt the topless towers of Ilium ?  
Sweet Helen; make me immortal with a kiss  
Her lips suck forth with my soul, see where It flies,  
Come, Helen come, give me me Soul again,  
Here will,I dwell for heaven is in These lips,  
And all is dross that is not Helena"

William Shakespeare who is considered to be the greatest English dramatist used language with command and purpose. He used language of feelings and the situation demanded.In his "king lear" Act-I, Scene-I there is a conversation between Lear and his daughter Cordelia which is interesting:

Cordelia : Nothing my lord  
Lear : Nothing!  
Cordelia : Nothing!  
Lear : Nothing will come of nothing;  
Speak again.

At the end of the play king Lear there is a heart touching scene in which Shakespeare used heart melting language:

Lear : And my poor fool is hanged!  
No, No, No life!  
Why should a dog, a horse , a rat  
Have a life,  
And thou breath a tall ? Thou' it  
Come no more,  
Never, Never, never,never,never!  
Pray you,undo this button ,thank you,  
Sir,  
Do you see this ? look on  
Her look , her lips,  
Look there, look there!

In "Julius Caesar" Act- II, Scene II there is an interesting conversation which provokes the reader's attention and interest. The conversation is between Julius Caesar the king and his wife Calphurnia

Calphurnia : when beggars die there are  
No comets seen;

The heavens themselves blaze forth  
The death of princes.

Caesar : towards die many times before their Deaths;  
The valiant never taste of death  
But once  
The above words of Caesar throw light on his boastful nature which is described in simple words by Shakespeare

In Macbeth Act-I ,Scene -IV shakespeare used simple words to express a great psychological interpretation of human fears:

Macbeth : ..... Present fears  
Are less than horrible imaginings

In Macbeth Act- V, Scene- III Shakespeare used simple language which contain great inner meaning:

Lady Macbeth : Here’s the smell of the  
Blood still, all the perfumes  
Of Arabia will not sweeten  
This little hand Oh, Oh,Oh!

This above lines bring out the intensity of the situation and also the intensity of the sin committed by Macbeth who has been provoked by lady Macbeth. It also throws light on her realization of the sin committed by her husband.

John Milton one of the greatest English poets used language as a tool to attain salvation. His language is scholarly and his style is grand his expressions his mission in writing his great epic “Paradise lost”.

“Of man’s first disobedience, and the fruit  
Of that forbidden tree, whose  
Mortal taste  
Brought,depth into the world  
And all our woe .....  
.....  
I may assert eternal providence  
And justify the ways of god to men”

Francis bacon on of the greatest essayist in English used language to express his experience in aphoristic sentences. In his “Of studies” he says “Studies serve for delight, for ornament, and for ability. Their chief use for delight is in privateness and retiring for ornament is in discourse”.

William Wordsworth on of the greatest English Romantic Poets used language to express his love for nature and common subjects.

His “Solitary Reaper” stands as fine example:

“Behold her single in the field  
Yon solitary highland lass!

Reaping and singing by herself;  
Stop here, or gently pass!  
Alone she cuts and binds the grain,  
And sings a melancholy strain ;  
O listen! For the vale profound  
Is overflowing with the sound.”

SaumeI Taylor Coleridge made use of the language as a clever magician. In his “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” we find the beautiful description of the sea:

Nor any drop to drink”  
“Water water every where  
All the boards did shrink  
Water water every where  
Nor any drop to drink”

The above lines throw light on the impact of the killing of the bird by fellow passengers of the story teller.

P.B. Shelley used literature as a tool for his revolt against the old customs and dogmatic beliefs and slavery. His language is as revolutionary as his thought. He is pessimistic about his own fate and it is clearly expressed in his “Ode to the West Wind” is simple words

I fall upon the thorns of life;  
I bleed!  
Similarly he used language to express his optimistic view about the fate of mankind:  
The Trumpet of a prophecy! O, wind,  
If winter comes can spring  
Be far behind?

Alfred lord Tennyson one of the greatest Victorian poets influenced the poetry- reading public a lot by his use of simple language which contained great meaning. His “Ulysses” stands as a fine example for his inspiring poetry:

“Though much is taken,  
Much abides; and though  
We are not now that strength  
Which in old days  
Moved earth and heaven; that  
Which we are we are;  
One equal temple for heroic hearts,  
Made weak by time and fate,  
But strong in will  
To strive to seek, to find, and  
Not to yield”

Matthew Arnold one of the greatest poets of England tried his level best to focus the confusing state of the people of England. In his "Dover Beach" he brought out various facts about the religious and social conditions of England in simple language:

"Ah, love, let us be true  
To one another! fix the world, which seems  
To lie before us like a hand of dreams  
So various so beautiful so new,  
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,  
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;  
And we are here as on a darkling plain  
Sept with confused alarms of struggle and  
flight,  
Where ignorant armies clash by night"

T.S.Eliot one of the greatest modern poets of England succeeded to focus the disturbed social relations and deteriorations of human values in simple language. He brought out the hollowness in the modern society. In his "Hallow Men" we find the following lines:

"We are the hollow men  
We are the stuffed man"  
"Shape without form,  
Shed without colour"  
"Paralysed force, gesture without  
Motion"

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