

CHAPTER II

ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE

C H A P T E R - II

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It is only in recent years that serious attention is being given to language as a science. Richards says that language can be used in two ways. One, the scientific or referential way and two the emotive use. The scientific language is used for reference and emotive for the expression of emotions and attitudes.

"A statement may be used for the sake of references, true or false, which it causes. This is the scientific use of language. But it may also be used for the same of the effects in emotion and attitude... This is the emotive use of language."¹

A) The Scientific or Referential Language :

In Dictionary of Literary Terms Martin Gray defines referential language as - the language of simple, exact and neutral description such as is used by scientist.² If we accept the above definition, we will understand that the language of science/^{makes}clear the facts. It adds something new to our knowledge. Definitional Dictionary of Linguistic Terms regards referential as linguistic sign when it refers to some object in the real world.³ The Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English also considers referential as having reference to something.⁴

The scientific use of words refer to the denotative meaning. In the scientific use references are left intact. Richards' concept of language brought a revolution in the field of literary criticism."There is something new in a cookery book. These type of books may be included in the literature of knowledge as they speak regarding facts."⁵ Every chapter of such a book gives a new knowledge which is based on facts."Words are meant for expressing different areas of human activities - those activities aim at truth can be stated only through the symbolic use of language"⁶ Language is made decorative by using many devices.

"Usually references are involved as conditions for, or stages in, the ensuing development of attitudes. It matters not at all in all cases whether the references are true or false. Their sole function is to bring about and support the attitudes which are the further response."⁷

"The term reference stands for the property of mental events which we substitute for thought or cognition."⁸ Here the thought or cognition is made possible by mental reaction to it. Sometimes references are used without pointing towards the actual facts and understood by linking them with past experience by our mind. The term "thinking" covers mental operations in which the impulses are so completely governed by internal factors and so out of

control of stimulus that no reference occurs. Most 'thinking' includes reference in some degree, of course, but not all.

The science has opened out field after field of possible reference. In otherwords, science is the organization of references with a view solely to the convenience and facilitation of reference. The impulses developed in science are modified only by one another, with a view to the greatest possible completeness and systematization, and for the facilitation of further references. In short, science is autonomous. Any body of undistorted references belongs to science. If we know enough it might be possible that all necessary attitude could be obtained through scientific references alone.

B) Emotive Language :

The word 'emotive' refers to the emotion and attitude of the person which help to understand any thought. In A Dictionary of Literary Terms Martin Gray defines emotive language as - The language of literature which is designed to affect and guide the reader's feelings.⁹ The above definition focuses the reader's feelings affected by emotive language. The feelings are modified by emotive language. Definitional Dictionary of Linguistic Terms regards emotive language as - the language containing thoughts and expressions that intend to arouse emotions.¹⁰ The above definition makes/^{clear} that emotive language is intended to arouse emotions as

reaction to emotional thoughts and expressions. The Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English considers emotive language as the language tending to excite the emotions.¹¹

The emotive use of language refers to the connotative meaning. The word 'connotative' means to persuade someone to do something. The effects of emotive language are in emotion and attitude. Activities which aim at feeling can be expressed through the emotive use. The emotive kind of literature -

"speaks ultimately to the higher understanding or reason, through affections of pleasure and sympathy."¹²

Richards denied to poetry any truth of reference and argued that the 'truth' as applied to work of art could mean only the 'rightness' of the work of art. The work of art is valuable as it helps to organize and co-ordinate our impulses and attitudes. The literature and arts can do the maximum satisfaction of a maximum number of impulses without disturbing other impulses.

"The literary work has a different, though an equally important and far more vital function - to use an evocative term in connection with an evocative matter. It induces a fitting attitude to experience."¹³

It is the necessity for showing how a work of literature can produce a certain state of mind in the reader that is how words operate in communicating meaning. A satisfactory work of imaginative literature - emotive language, represents a kind of psychological adjustment in the author which is valuable for personality and that the reader, if he knows how to read properly, can have this adjustment communicated to him by reading the work. The properly perceptive kind of reading can receive the true value of a work.¹⁴

The emotive language is used for the sake of the effects in emotion and attitude produced by the reference. The development of emotion and attitude is possible by the emotive use of language. The art enables human mind to organize itself more quickly and completely. So art is a means whereby we can gain emotional balance, mental equilibrium, peace and rest. The art produces a state of mind in which all the faculties are alive and active and pleasure results from their harmonious adjustment. The emotive use of language helps the human being to resettle his balance of mind if he had lost it. The emotive language provides less knowledge but more emotions and attitudes that are helpful for our life. Recorrection of society is made possible by emotive language as it persuades our mind and asks us to behave properly. As compared to scientific language, emotive idea is less abstract, since it retains the emotional reaction, the pleasure of the

perception, as an integral part of the conceived thing.

C) The Referential and Emotive Language - A Comparison :

A statement used for reference, true or false is called the scientific (referential) language. A statement used for effects in emotion and attitude is called the emotive language. "science makes statements, but poetry makes pseudo-statements and its referential value is nil."¹⁵ Science is simply the organization of references with a view solely to the convenience and facilitation of reference. On the other hand art is the organization of fictitious references with a view to promote emotions and attitudes.

The differences between the mental processes involved in the two cases are very great. For scientific language a difference in the references is itself failure : the end has not been attained. Here the accuracy in references is expected as the scientific language deals with specific reference and so change in reference creates problem to achieve its goal. The references must be correct for success. The references should have connections and relation with one another, in otherwards they must be logical. One reference should help to the other to clarify the sense. On the other hand, the references with widest difference carrying required effects in emotion and attitude are allowed in emotive language. The emotive language only expects further required effects and so logical connections or relation among references is also of

no importance. The series of attitudes and emotional interconnection due to the references is called proper organization in the emotive language. In both uses of language, truth is the important factor.

The statements in scientific language may be true or false . A reference is true when the things to which it refers to are actually together in the way in which it refers to them. And if they are not one then it is false reference. In the emotive language truth means the avoidance of confusions, stirring certain emotions and evoking certain attitudes of approval and acceptance. In other words, truth is replaced by probability or acceptability in the emotive language. The term acceptability clarifies the proper response of the reader or spectator to the work of art, which depends upon the proper presentation of the scenes. Truth is also equivalent to internal necessity or rightness.¹⁶

The internal acceptability is also called 'convincingness'. Here the writer should try to convince the reader by his literary work. The scientific language deals with the facts and so there is no need to convince it. The receiver will be directly contacted with the facts. But in the emotive language the facts are not kept before the receiver. He is expected to respond with his emotions and attitudes. The expected emotions and attitudes are only possible when the writer describes it convincingly.

Thirdly, truth may be equivalent to sincerity. The writer

must not try to force upon the reader the effect which he does not feel. Then he cannot be convincing because he is not sincere. The sincerity of the artist carries the emotive truth which is different from scientific truth. He must present the things whatever he himself believes.

David Daiches says that Richards conducts these investigations in order to come to some clear conclusions about what imaginative literature is, how it employs language, how its use of language differs from the scientific use of language and what is its special function and value.¹⁷ Thus Richards, while discussing the two uses of language, has touched the problem of truth in art, acceptability of the artists' creations by the public and realism in art.

Richards says : Originally language may have been almost purely emotive; that is to say a means of expressing feelings about situations, a means of expressing impersonal attitudes, and a means of bringing about concerted action. Language can be used for scientific or emotional use. When we seek information the language is used in a scientific manner. But poetry has emotional use for language. While science makes statements poetry makes pseudo-statement. A statement says something you can always verify. But a pseudo-statement like - "the heart of fire" is not literary true. So this is the emotive use of language. A pseudo-statement says nothing but evokes emotions and poetry speaks this

language of impulses and emotions in order to induce similar emotions in the reader.

In Science and Poetry, Richards discusses the difference between scientific and poetic truth. The poet makes, not true statements, but pseudo-statements. A pseudo-statement is 'true' if it suits and serves some attitude or links together attitudes which on other grounds are desirable. He emphasizes the fundamental disparity and opposition between pseudo-statements as they occur in poetry and statements as they occur in science. A pseudo-statement is a form of words which is justified entirely by its effect in releasing or organizing our impulses and attitudes. A statement, on the other hand, is justified by its truth, i.e. its correspondence, in a highly technical sense, with the fact to which it points.

To declare science autonomous is very different from subordinating all our activities to it. It is merely to assert that so far as any body of references is undistorted it belongs to science. It is not in the least to assert that no references may be distorted if advantage can thereby be gained. All necessary attitudes could be obtained through scientific references. Fictions whether aroused by statements or by analogous things in other arts may be used in many ways. They may be used, for example, to deceive. But this is not a characteristic use of poetry. The distinction which needs to be kept clear does not set up fictions

in opposition to verifiable truths in the scientific sense. A statement may be used for the sake of the reference, true or false, which it causes. This is the scientific use of language. But it may also be used for the sake of the effects. This is the emotive use of language. The distinction once clearly grasped is simple. We may either use words for the sake of the references they promote, or we may use them for the sake of the attitudes without any reference being required.

In conclusion, I.A. Richards focuses two uses of language. He clarifies the distinction between the referential and the emotive aspects of language. The scientific terms are limited by convention and carry one proper meaning that the term always and invariably bears. In non-technical discourse, words, 'must shift their meanings'. Scientific language has its own kind of precision. The emotive language lacks the precision. In his Philosophy of Rhetoric he seems to have quietly laid aside the distinction between the referential and the emotive aspects of language and have devoted himself to an account of a new rhetoric founded on semantic analysis. In short, the scientific language is used for reference and emotive for the expression of emotions and attitudes.

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