



TEACHING LANGUAGE THROUGH LITERATURE:A STUDY OF JAYA SHREE MOHAN RAJ'S SHORT STORY "MORNING BELLS"

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ABSTRACT

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Literature is a powerful tool which can be used to teach language to students of technical course to amplify their language skills (LSRW). Unfortunately; the present Engineering students are in short of the language skills and are not familiar with the term "Literature". Mick Farren Darklos, an English journalist and author has rightly stated that "We think literature is immortal, but even that decays and ultimately turns to dust." It fits in the present day Technical Education System. Literature which can make a man into a complete human is being totally ignored in the engineering m classroom. Language is a structure of conventional spoken and written symbols. Literary texts such as short stories, poems and plays lay the foundation for multi-cultural classroom experiences and can provide learners a rich source of linguistic input. This technique will make the learner to practice the language skills enhancing the grammatical structures and new vocabulary.

Keywords: *Language skills, Grammatical structures, New vocabulary, Linguistic input.*

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INTRODUCTION

English language has become global language, the important medium of expression in the present day education system. Therefore it is necessary to every graduate especially to Indian engineers to be equipped with the language skills. Moreover, mastering English language will guarantee them a successful career. In this scenario teachers of English language should play a vital role in educating their students on the importance of communication skills.

Teaching English language to Indian students from rural background is a challenge. Most of the students complete their basic education in local language and they develop a kind of inhibition towards English language. In addition to that the curriculum prepared to the Engineering students is purely technical and boring. Hence the students of engineering do not enjoy the language classroom as the students of arts and sciences.

Language taught through literature creates interest in the learners and leaves a strong and lasting impression in the minds of young engineers. Literature is a reflection of the society. It is a fact that has been widely acknowledged. Literature indeed reflects the society, its good values and its ills. In its corrective function, literature mirrors the ills of the society with a view to making the society realize its mistakes for positive change. It also projects the virtues or good values in the society for people to emulate. It is true that literature is an imitation of human action which presents a picture of what people think, say and do in the society. Creative writers create stories to portray human life and action through some characters who, by their words, action and reaction, convey certain messages for the purpose of education, information and entertainment. MORNING BELLS by Jaya Shree Mohan Raj is a perfect example. It depicts our Indian society and there by motivates the students to relate the story to their own personal or cultural experience.

Jaya Shree Mohan Raj is a teacher of English at The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. She is a creative writer as well as translator. She is specialized in English language teaching, Teacher education and communication

skills. She has written *My mother My strength* on mother daughter relationship. The story *Morning Bells* is based on a real life incident. The writers like Jaya Shree Mohan Raj transport the real-life events in their society into fiction and present it to the society as a mirror.

Morning Bells is a story of four children who are rag pickers. The author says that every day we encounter such boys on the road side but we don't find to look at them. If at all we do, they are thought of brats (spoiled children) and urchins (mischievous boys). These four boys go about garbage bin to garbage bin lugging their jute sacks. They pick up things which they think can fetch them some money. Each boy has his own story which is so painful. These boys have undergone various pathetic experiences like beatings and scolding of drunken father, harassment of stepmother, physical abuse by hotel proprietor etc in their childhood and had very unpleasant childhood. They believe that Gods providence has brought them together. Whole day they collect broken plastics, tins, cans & bottles etc from one garbage in to another ad will get about five rupees or so if at all they are lucky.

One day when the four boys; Ramu, Chotu, Irfan and Munna were out on their mission they found something that touched the humanity in them. Chotu stooped inside the huge garbage bin. A swarm (cluster) of flies rose up in the air. He found something soft in the bin and was shocked to see a dead female infant. These boys quickly wrapped it up in the old newspaper and went to temple which is on their way to the shed in the old city to buy flowers and incense sticks for her burial. There they saw the people those who are entering the temple with bare foreheads coming out with their foreheads adorned (decorated) with bright vermilion (brilliant red colour) marks. On the festive days as the number of pious people doubles and so does the number of hands outstretched (extended). Beggars at the temple have their own territories and no new entrant (competitor) is allowed in the precincts (space of place of definite limits) without consent

to this students can also learn the style of writing and use of sentences based on the stylistic choices. To illustrate we can take the three types of sentence namely loose, periodic and balanced.



Loose sentence refers to a sentence which starts with a main point and is followed by a subordinate clause. These sentences are very obvious in conveying the message.

Ex: Chotu carried her gently, wrapped in a big enough rag he found outside the shed (Paragraph 23).

A Periodic sentence means having a main point at the middle or at the end of the sentence creating suspense in the mind of the reader.

Ex: Just when he was about to tell the old woman that he wanted, a car stopped in front of the temple (paragraph 20)

A Balanced sentence has two principle clauses, parallel structure in it. Ex: White balls go into the green pocket; red balls go into the black pocket (not from the story)

By teaching such language elements students could improve their writing skills and learn correct grammatical structures of the sentence.

CONCLUSION

Teaching language through literature especially through short stories would enlighten students to learn morals and values. They can identify the hypocritical attitudes of the people. They can practice their humanity by helping the poor and needy. They could also develop their narrative ability by understanding the plot and structure of the story, plan, organize and present ideas coherently by introducing, developing and concluding the topic.

All this understanding will help the students to enhance their linguistic knowledge and output which could make them successful in their career.

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