



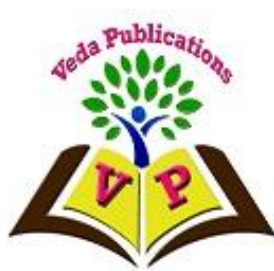
## LANGUAGE IS SOMETHING INFINITELY GREATER THAN GRAMMAR AND PHILOLOGY

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### ABSTRACT



The language plays pivotal role in shaping and evaluating the greatness of the literary piece of work. The longevity and the merit of any piece of literary works depend upon the color, tone and tenure of the language used in the narration of the work. Every language has three pivotal corners or cardinal parts of language triangle. Attitude and the mode of language decide the genre of literary work. There are four major and main skills of language: reading, listening, speaking and writing. These skills of language not only facilitates learning but develop the capability of understanding analyzing the import of language on the one hand and its lexicon and Grammar encompassed in the language enables the time and space of the language on the other hand. The potential of language in communication and self-expression makes it infinitely greater than grammar and philology.

**Keywords:** *Philology; Language; literary work; Grammar; Rhetoric: Linguistics; Ontology; language triangle.*

### Citation:

**APA** Sharma,A.(2017) Language is something infinitely greater than Grammar and Philology. *Veda's Journal of English Language and Literature-JOELL*, 4(4), 233-236.

**MLA** Sharma,Anukriti. "Language is something infinitely greater than Grammar and Philology" *Veda's Journal of English Language and Literature JOELL*, Vol.4, no.4, 2017, pp. 233-236.



### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Life is a multi-splendored entity and its reality has more than one plane. It needs a comprehensive vision to see the reality in its totality. Literary-art which is very closely linked with imagination, feelings, and emotions uses the paints and brushes to depict a landscape in terms of light and vivid tones of color. The spirit of imagination riding the vehicle of language describes and analyses the stream of consciousness to usher in the sense of enjoyment on the one hand, and understand the urges of inner self on the other hand. Thus a deep sense essence is crucial to literary art enabling the reader, hearer or viewer to garner much more than what the mere words or paint depict on the surface. Here comes the greatness of language. Language has permanent worth which is revealed through its intrinsic excellence that is why it facilitates in dealing with the inner and outer world of mankind. The literary creativity presence in some of the human faculty which enabled the entire humanity to realize the kaleidoscopic dreams of human being, his aspirations to soar higher and higher.

**1.2** Language in literary work like poems, songs, novels, theatrical dramas, stories etc. has a very prominent personal mark about it. As T.S. Elliot has coined a remarkable phrase about the mind, which creates and the man who suffers both, have a bearing upon the product of literature. That is why literary creativity is considered intensively subjective. And since a piece of literature is subjective, the tone and tenor of that piece of literature is characteristic of respective owners of the work. Thus Shakespearian, Shelley, Keats, Byron each has left an indelible imprint on their charismatic language and immortal literary creations whose longevity and merit is still liked for their universal appeal. Just as reason without imagination and vice-versa cannot provide anything intellectually satisfying and sustainable permanent value. Similarly literary work with flamboyant but flippant language does not create good and great narration. The poems of metaphysical nature and various other modes of narrations containing metaphors and images are worth their symbolism and existence but for the style and strength of the language used. The readers

admire, appreciate and adore the greatness of language with its universal appeal for all the ages to come in the vicissitude of human nature and civilization by imbibing the spirit from following lines with which William Blake begins his "Auguries of Innocence":

**"To see a world in a grain of sand**

**And Heaven in a wild flower**

**Hold infinity in the palm of your hand**

**And eternity in a hour"**

**1.3** In a language—every succeeding part depends upon preceding parts. Some obvious and apparently needless proposition turns out to be a corner stone of an imposing development of logic. From the loosely textured mind of ours the thoughts and emotions exuding and extruding from the heart and mind are weaved precariously to usher in laconic obscurity. It is in this context grammar—a science of rules is used for pruning the unnecessary parts of language with reference to its syntax, morphology etc. so as to make the form of language more logical, cogent and comprehending.

**2.1** Philology is a linguistics science that deals with the development and ontology of a language. Language developed from symbolic configuration of body parts of a person who intends to convey and communicate something to somebody. This mode of language has been essentially restricted to information or warning of incoming danger. The communication of imagination instruction, teaching through words came later on. The proper syntax of language came later first orally followed by writing. By studying the syntax of language a philologist can form an idea about its origin whether it is Latin or Greece. Every language has three pivotal corners or cardinal parts of a language—triangle whose study with analytical frame of mind may only enable to conclude or so to say reach the denouement that language is something infinitely greater than grammar and philology.

**2.2** Language triangle has at its base substance in one corner and attribute on the other corner of the base. The arms shooting out from either corner join to form another apex corner of the triangle that is



defined as mode. Substance refers to essence or “thought content” which decides and describes the import of various meanings and messages that language intends to communicate. According to the nature of the content and thought a language is classified as philosophical, psychological, poetic, commercial, business trade etc. Attribute is quality of language looked upon. Just as politeness is an attribute of a gentleman. Stylish ornamental idiomatic etc. are attributable to user of language. Among other attributes of language could be harsh and terse persuasive and pleasing, vituperative or vivacious. Attitude of a writer/orator decides the type of attribute. Mode refers to the words used in language which have their own literal meanings apart from the contextual meanings. As for instance the word Ass means donkey, Ape refers to monkeys. Whereas the word Ass stands for foolishness, or mindless hard work with very little result, the word ape refers to a person who mimics to others and imitation of others behavior. Thus it all depends upon mood and time when and how the term has been used. These are different modes of language operating under various semantic barriers. Thus rhetoric mode, descriptive mode, conversational mode, narrative mode as in many autobiographies and novels. Expository mode as used in crime detection and criminology or in physical and biological and medical literature.

**3.1** Language is most powerful and a splendid weapon invented by humanity. It is a powerful device to communicate feelings, ideas etc. But like a gun which is used both for offence or defense depends upon which end of the gun you are at. Therefore it is the user's background of knowledge, training, psychological frame of mind that decides good language or bad language. The science of language is grammar which also describes systematically the way language works. Thus in the modus-operandi of language, grammar facilitates the kinds of words that needs to occur in a language and the form they need to take so that the user of language can put them in meaningful combination. Language is composed of individual words juxtaposed in syntax with grammatical device so as to convey the message effectively. Words are so wonderful that author/orator can use to reveal ideas forcefully while

others can camouflage and conceal their thought that is why language is something infinitely greater than grammar.

**3.2** Just as the language triangle is significant in shaping and embellishing the quality, content and force of import of message contained so are the four major and main skills of language: reading, listening, writing and speaking. These skills of language not only facilitates learning of language but ultimately develops the capability of understanding and analyzing the import of language on the one hand and the lexicon and grammar encompassed in the language to infer time and space of the language on the other hand. The potential of language in communication and self-expression makes it infinitely greater than grammar and philology. In this context three levels of response of the people to the language can be observed. The first being its usage, the second one deals with the views about language and the third level deals with the feelings that emerge when anyone questions these views. Avoiding intermixing of different levels of public responses for the fear of conflation and confusion if it is well enough to conclude from the thinking and feeling of the people about the language and its potential.

## CONCLUSION

The whole genre of literature comprising poetry, novels, story, drama depend primary on the mode of narration in their respective types of “voyage imaginaries”. Language plays a pivotal role in shaping and evaluating the greatness of the literary piece of work. Man has an imaginative creative faculty of his own which produces pieces of literary work, based on his imagination or as consequence to his reaction to the existing injustice, nepotism, inequality etc. The language in either conditions of creative mind shape the genre of literary work. The longevity and the merit of any piece of work depends upon the color tone and tenor of the language used in the narration of work abstract construction of the learned as declared by Walt Whitman in his “Slang America” or of a dictionary makers, but it is something arising out of the work, needs, ties, joys, affection, tastes of long generations of humanity and has its bases broad and low, close to the ground. This



is the raison d'être for language being something infinitely great. Language is great because it grows out of life, out of its need and experiences. Nicole Brossard says language is magic it makes things appear and disappear.

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