

Section-IV

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Four kinds of Meaning

by I A Richards

"Ivor Armstrong Richards" pioneer of New Criticism. He is the most influential critic in the 20th century Anglo-American Criticism. He is the only critic who has formulated a systematic and complete theory of the literary art. His important works are

1. The meaning of meaning - 1923.
2. The Principles of literary Criticism - 1924
3. The practical Criticism - 1929.

Richards, in his principles of literary Criticism, Richards gave criticism a scientific precision and objectivity Contradictory to a chaos of Critical theories. For a proper understanding of a poem, the following questions have to be answered. What is a meaning? The thing one intends to convey especially by language is called meaning. For the study of literature, there are several kinds of meanings. Language performs several functions - difference to be noted. Richards divides language functions into four types - Four types of meaning.

1. Sense
2. Feeling
3. Tone
4. Intention

1. Sense :

what speaker or author speaks is sense. The thing that the writer literary conveys is sense. Speaker wants to give some thoughts to the listeners. The language is very straightforward which is descriptive. This language is not poetic. Sense is whatness of language use.

Sense means what is said. The sense of a poem means the matter, or what is said in the poem. Sense gives the Content.

2. Feeling :

Feeling is writer's emotional attitude towards the subject. It is an expression. The speaker or writer uses language to express his views. Here only, rhyme and meter cannot make poetry to be a good, emotion is equally important. Especially in lyric poem, emotion plays vital role.

Feeling gives the emotion as attitude with which a thing is said. A poet may be sad or happy while writing a poem. The Daffodils, the poet is feeling happy.

3. Tone :

Tone refers to attitude of speaker towards his listener. There is a kind of relationship between speaker and listener. Since speaker is aware of his relationship with language and with the listener, he changes level of words as the level of audience changes. It means tone varies from listener to listener.

Tone gives the attitude, for example in the traditional war poems, the poets have a patriotic attitude towards war. But the modern war poets have a naive attitude.

4. Intention :-

Sense - what one says, Feeling - what one talks about, Tone - one's attitude to the listener. Intention - Conscious or unconscious. Feeling is only a state of the mind. Intention is the writer's aim which may be conscious or unconscious. It refers to the emphasis shapes the arrangement to draw attention to something of importance.

Intention means the aim. Intention is the effect the writer or the poet wants to produce on the readers.

I. A. Richards gives examples to make his meaning clear. The writer of a scientific ~~text~~ ^{text} or their poets his sense first. Out of the four factors, Science gives most importance to sense. A writer of science controls ~~his~~ ^{his} feeling. The Tone of a scientist is normal. A scientist expresses his intention clearly.

In a political speech, intonation is most important. A political speaker has strong feeling. He shows anger against the opposite party. The tone of a political speaker is generally loud. The sense comes last in a political speech. At times a political speaker does not speak about his nation. he starts achieving his opposite party.

