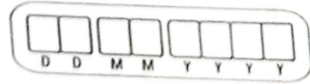


Section - 4

Imagination and Fancy



by S.T. Coleridge..

Coleridge build his theory on the basic distinction between Fancy and Imagination. These terms were used before him more or less undistinguishably to express the same concept.

Imagination :

Imagination is the ability and unity different ideas, images and symbols to creat something new. /

According to Coleridge Imagination has two forms

- 1 Primary imagination
2. Secondary imagination.

1] Primary Imagination :

Primary imagination is unlearned it exists in everyone by birth. It entirely deals with the sense of perception, feeling, sensation, recognition etc and we perceive through five senses. It is a common faculty like five senses, every one can touch, see, smell, hear, taste. Primary imagination is related to subconscious part of brain. Primary imagination is voluntary like it is not in the control of human being.

Primary imagination perceives signals from the external world with the help of five senses. The main function of primary imagination is to perceive only not to create or generate something.

According to S. T. Coleridge, Primary imagination is the repetition in the finite mind of eternal act of creation in the infinite I am.

Repetition in the finite mind means such type of imagination repeats in every mind every moment.

2. Secondary Imagination :

Secondary imagination is not exists in everyone by birth, it is God gifted faculty. It works upon what is perceived by the primary imagination.

Coleridge said that Secondary imagination is not different from primary imagination in kind but in degree.

It gives importance to artistic beauty.

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It is more Creative and Generative than primary imagination. It is more active and Conscious in its working. Secondary imagination selects and orders the raw materials, like how to order the raw word in the artistic way and which figure to speech, I have to use. It is the root of all poetic activity. Secondary imagination is limited to poets.

Fancy :

According to S. T. Coleridge, the function of Fancy is not to create or generate. It is just a form of memory or a store house.

Coleridge has called fancy the aggressive and associative power. Coleridge regards fancy to be the inferior to imagination. It only combines different things like Images, ideas, Symbols into different shapes, not like imagination to fuse them (merge) into one.

Fancy works like a remender, it remind old memories. Fancy take information from Primary imagination. It can't directly perceives from external world. Fancy is different from imagination in its kind not degree.

Fancy always associated with Imagination. It talks about Mysterious power. Imagination brings to out hidden ideas/feel

Concrete destination

Imagination and Fancy:

Imagination and Fancy on the other hand, differ in kind. There are activities of two different kinds. Fancy is not a creative power at all. It only combines what it perceives into beautiful shapes, but like the imagination it does not fuse and unify. The difference between the two is the same as the difference between a mechanical mixture and a chemical compound. In a mechanical mixture a number of ingredients are brought together. They are mixed up, but they do not lose their individual properties. They still exist as separate identities. In a chemical compound, on the other hand, the different ingredients combine to form something new. The different ingredients no longer exist as separate identities. They lose their respective properties and fuse together to create something new and entirely different. A compound is an act of creation; while a mixture is merely a bringing together of a number of separate elements.