

A Study of The Dramatic Device in John Galsworthy's Plays.

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Abstract :-

Galsworthy's drama's are all dramas of ideas, they have well marked themes and like his characters, his plots also are vehicles for the conveyance of his ideas and themes. His plots have nothing sensational, melodramatic or thrilling about them. No other character of any significance are allowed to distract our attention from the central figure; and we follow his fortunes with breathless interest. In 'Justice' the play ends with his death, and in each a glamour of tenderness and pity is cast over the final scene and in this way the tragedy is softened to some extent.

Parallelism and contrasts are skillfully used to give the play a tight, well knit structure. Thus there is a close parallelism between the first Act of Justice and the last, and there is also contrast, Both the first and last Acts of the play open with a visit of Ruth to the office, Where Falder works; in both Cokeson pleads for Falder and both end with tragedy over taking the poor young man, But while Act I ends with his arrest, Act IV ends with the tragic death; in the former James is set against Falder, in the latter his heart softens and he tries his best to save Falder from rearrest.

Dialogue is then used to fill up the outlines of character given in stage directions, and also to stimulate interest. The heart of Galsworthy's characters is laid bare through a few telling remarks of their own, all Galsworthy's characters talk well, but they seldom talk at length.

Galsworthy is a typical representative of modern humanitarianism He has reverence for all life. Every created being he feels, within the infinite diversity of nature, has the right to live.

Keywords :- Vehicles, Conveyance, Sensational, Melodramatic, Thrilling, Parallelism, Contrasts, Dialogue, Stimulate, Humanitarianism, Reverence, Diversity, Live.

Let us consider the art, technique, the plot, the art of characterization, the dialogue and themes of his plays, It will help us to see how Galsworthy takes his readers or spectators to the extreme height of reality to achieve his aim of making them aware of their duty or responsibility to society, to appeal them to imagine, sympathize and understand the oppressed fellow human beings. Inshort, he takes the helps of his drama to diagnose the various ills and evils of the man and his environment in the British Society of his time.

1) The theme of his play :-

The themes of Galsworthy's plays are highly realistic. No situation faked, no character falsified, no fire works only something imagined and put down in a passionate sincerity. Galsworthy deals with real people and the real situation in their life, His plays are about the ordinary people like the poor worker, the charwoman, the clerk etc. He handles common situations like theft, strike in a small factory, and so on Galsworthy's range of interest is wide and this is reflected in the immense variety of his themes and his characters. Hardly any aspect of modern life has been left untouched, The aim of Galsworthy is to depict the problems that one has to face in life. And all his plays exhibit the presence of a fundamental social problem expressed in his natural manner.

2) The Art of Characterization :-

Equally wide is his range of characterization. He covers every stratum of society, every profession and age group. The characters of Galsworthy are highly realistic. They are the people whom we meet in our daily life, They are not extra ordinary, unrealistic or of philosophical type. For instance John Barthwick, John Anthony, Falder, Mr. Cokeson, Roberts etc. are all realistic characters that act and behave in a highly realistic manner. There is a infinite variety in his portrait gallery. There is on one hand, a large and interesting group of characters, mostly of conservative or aristocratic learnings, who are upholders of tradition. They are interested in maintaining the established social order. Their selfishness, class consciousness and traditional prejudices are responsible for keeping alive social evils whose removal would make society healthier and the people happier. Galsworthy's characters are highly emotional persons, but they do not express their feelings eloquently. Their expression is

subdued and not verbose, The plays contain characters who possess emotions which they cannot express. Galsworthy's characters are flat characters. There is no development in them, They remain the same from beginning to the end. They are static and not flexible or dynamic.

3) The Plot of Construction :-

The Plot of Galsworthy are built on small incidents like theft, forgery, drunkenness and strike of workers etc. But there is nothing unrealistic in them. Parallelism and contrasts are skillfully used to give the play a tight, well knit structure, Thus there is a close parallelism between the first Act of Justice and the last, and there is also contrast. Both the first and last Acts of the play open with a visit to Ruth to the office. Where Falder works; in both Cokeson pleads for Falder, and both end with tragedy over taking the poor young man, But while Act I ends with his arrest, Act IV ends with his tragic death; in the former James is set against Falder, in the latter his heart softens and he tries his best to save Falder from rearrest. In 'Justice' there is the ironic contrast between the desire to do justice and the failure of justice and this irony is well brought out by the trial of Falder. In Galsworthy, the plot is subordinated to character. Sometimes in a moment of high tension, the feelings deeply agitated character will be suggested to the audience by significant symbolic action, more eloquent than words.

4) The Dialogue :-

Dialogue is then used to fill up the outlines of character given in stage directions and also to stimulate interest. His characters convey to the audience everything that is necessary to a full understanding of themselves in their situation. "His dialogue is the speech of men who are living beings facing the exigencies of the moment in an ordinary world. There is no artifice in the conversation of his characters, Never the less his dialogue is not merely a mechanical record of things said in the real world.

5) His Sympathy and Impartiality :-

Galsworthy is an artist wedded to reality but he has deep sympathy for the poor, the underdog and the oppressed. Yet surprisingly we find a perfect balance between sympathy and impartiality. He gives justifications to all types of characters whether it is a leader of the workers or the chairman of a firm, In short Galsworthy has an important place in modern drama because of the structure of his drama, his humanism, the sincerity of his art and the faithful picture of that he has drawn of the life around him with all its conflicts and problems. Every created being he feels, within the infinite diversity of nature, has the right to live. Charity, sympathy and toleration rather than dry intellectualism are the hallmarks of the art of Galsworthy.

6) Awareness of Social Responsibility :-

Why does Galsworthy remain faithful to reality ? What is his point of view in reflecting upon the ills and evils of society ? Does he, as a philanthropist artist, conscious of his duty to society wish to create the awareness of social responsibility in the spectators and readers. With a view to expose social evils, he concentrates his attention to domestic problems.

7) Irony of Life :-

The unexpected and the undesired aspirations are constantly thwarted, They desire one thing and gets exact opposite; the contrary always happens. There is something baffling and something mysterious which upsets all human calculations and by and large such frustrations and thwarting arise from human fallibility and folly. Only on an ironic view of life are its woes endurable and Galsworthy has this ironic view.

8) A thorough going Realistic – Use of Stage Directions :-

Another important quality of Galsworthy's art is his thorough going realism, He deals with human relationship, The Hero-heroines and other characters are drawn from real life, ordinary person like the clerk Falder In 'Justice' and Mrs. Jones the charwoman etc. Realism is the key note of his drama and connected with life and reality, the life is depicted at a crucial stage, it is the faithful presentation of life. It presents a vast multitude of interesting men and women, It portrays individuals and complete specimen of humanity as well as types who represent various creeds points of view and illuminate the themes under discussion from various angles. Mr. Galsworthy's stage direction are admirable. Mr. Galsworthy, no doubt bears the reader in mind as must a modern dramatist, whose plays gain their provincial audience largely through book form; but we seldom find a word which is not weighty for the stage manager.

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