

Core English 313

Literary Criticism 3

Unit 2

1. I A Richards as a Critic

As a critic, I. A. Richards is remembered for five important books, which he wrote either independently or in collaboration with others. Among such books include –

The Foundation Of Aesthetics, The Meaning Of Meaning, The Principles of Literary Criticism, Practical Criticism, and Coleridge On Imagination.

****The first book The Foundation Of Aesthetics is published in 1922.* It has been written in collaboration with two friends Ogden and James Wood. In this book, Richard tries to give his analysis of the concept of Aesthetic Beauty.***

****His second book entitled The Meaning of Meaning was published in 1923.* Richard wrote this book too in collaboration with Ogden. In this book, Richard distinguishes between the symbolic use of language in Science and its emotive use in poetry.***

****Richard's third book The Principles of Literary Criticism* is the most outstanding work of English Criticism. This book came out in 1924 and created almost a revolution in the field of English Literary Criticism. In this book I. A. Richard formulated a systematic and complete theory of poetry. He also explains his psychological theory of value and explores the emotive language of Poetry.***

****Richard's Practical Criticism was published in 1929* and it is based on his lecture room experiments conducted in Cambridge. According to him a poet writes to communicate and language is the means of that communication language consists of words so the study of words is significant to understand the meaning.***

****The meaning of words* depends on:***

□ *Sense*

□ *Feeling*

□ *Tone*

□ *Intention*

➤ *1. Sense*

By Sense, it meant ****something that is communicated by the plain literal meaning of the words.****

2. Feeling

Feeling refers to ****emotions, emotional attitudes, desire, and will pleasure. Words express feelings.****

3. Tone

***Tone means the writer's attitude towards his audience.* The writer chooses his words and arranges them keeping in mind the taste of his readers.**

4. Intention

Speaker intention or purpose modifies the speech. It is the effects that one tries to produce.

*** _“The Sound Of a word has much to do with the feeling it evokes.”*_**

- I A Richards

△ According to I. A. Richards, ***There are three types of Good Critic:***

***Firstly,* A Critic should be a learned person. He has strong control over words and the effect they produce.**

***Secondly* , he must be a sound judge of values and have adequate knowledge of psychology.**

****Thirdly,* he must be able to distinguish experiences from one another.***

I A Richards ***himself possesses these qualities. Richard did a great service to literary criticism by linking it with psychology.***

His later publication included *Coleridge On Imagination published in 1934.* I. A. Richard gave us six distinct senses of the word Imagination.

△ ***Production of Image.***

△ ***The use of figurative Language.***

△ ***The Narrower sense.***

△ ***Inventiveness imagination.***

△ ***The Scientific imagination.***

△ ***The Sense of musical delight.***

In simpler form, I. A. Richards says that a poet arranges his experiences and lays them in a style that is not possible for an ordinary person. So the poet always does it better.

Conclusion

Thus, we can say that Richard has done a great service to literary criticism by linking it with psychology. A number of scholars have emerged as critics and interpreted literature in order to help a common reader. But I. A. Richards is considered the pioneer of them.

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