

A Study of *Joker in the Pack* with Reference to its Diction

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ABSTRACT

Research has tried to evaluate the *Joker in the Pack* in the light of diction. Researcher has covered many points to evaluate the novel's diction. These points are: the language used in the novel is characterized by short sentences, mischievous behaviour of the students is also explained in a very sophisticated way with the use of standard vocabulary, the modern slang used by the present generation has been adopted in the novel, words adopted from Indian languages, name of vegetable and edible thing and quite a lot of dishes in these different languages have been mentioned, the college dialect used by the students has many aspects, abbreviations form an important component of the students' speech, repetition of words to stress the importance, certain unique expressions have also been used, local dialect, words and sentences which need to be stressed are used in italics, humorous instances have been sprinkled throughout the novel, special structure of the sentence for giving the special attention, sort of word throughout the novel, idioms and leave the sentence half way to present a lively college life. Researcher evaluated the novel with the help of these points.

Introduction

Ritesh Sharma is one of the authors of the novel "Joker in the Pack" and Neeraj Pahlajani is the co-author of this novel. Sharma has written two more books: *Deal Drivers and Cultural Aspects in M&A* involving Indian companies and the *Indian Economy- a Stable Growth Story*. He has been given Special Appreciation Award given by Rotary International to Ritesh Sharma in 2002 for efforts in individual capacity towards eradication of polio in India – "Pulse Polio Program". In addition to this, Sharma has a genuine love for writing. He published his three different works. One is a literary work: *Joker in the Pack*, the second one is on the Indian economy *The Indian Economy – A Stable Growth Story* and the third work is on M&A involving Indian Company that is *Deal Drivers and Cultural Aspect in M&A involving Indian Companies*.

Neeraj Pahlajani is co author of the novel *Joker in the Pack*. His father is a government employee and his mother is a home maker. Neeraj Pahlajani completed most of his schooling from Delhi. Pahlajani was brilliant in his study. He was always in top three in his entire grade. After he completed his MBA, he joined American Express as a Analyst in the year 2006 and did this job for one year. Authors use bundle of varieties in the diction in his novel and so that their novel is very popular. Authors use extraordinary diction in the *Joker in the Pack*.

Diction

Dictionary meaning

- The term diction signifies the types of words, phrases, and sentence structures, and sometimes also of figurative language, that constitute any work of literature. A writer's diction can be analyzed under a great variety of categories, such as the degree to which the vocabulary and phrasing is abstract or concrete.
- Diction, the choice of words used in a literary work. A writer's diction may be characterized, for example, by

*ARCHAISM, or by *LATINATE or Anglo-Saxon derivations; and it may be described according to the oppositions formal/colloquial, abstract/concrete, and literal/figurative. For the specific * CONVENTIONS of diction in poetry.

Diction in the *Joker in the Pack*

It is remarkable that the mischievous behavior of the students is also explained in a very sophisticated way with the use of standard vocabulary. It is a common practice in the modern novelists to use words and sentences from foreign as well as Indian languages in their works.

Author uses the hybridity of language in the present novel. He uses in such a manner that it increases the interest of the reader in reading the novel. He uses English language's word in Hindi sentence and Hindi language word in English sentence. For instance: "... Questionnaire banaayatha second term mein?" (Sharma 116). "Chupkaryaar, election aanewaalehainwahaan par, goli lag jaayegihamare MBA ko" (Sharma 116). "I didn't want to be beaten by a mob for eve-testing the respectful bahu of Rampur" (Sharma 130). "... there had a big ghoonghat I front of their faces" (Sharma 130). The words which are in Hindi and difficult one, author gives its meaning in the foot note.

One of the unique factors of the novel is its diction. The modern slang used by the college students of the present generation has been adopted in the novel, which is quite captivating. The novel makes the readers realize this fact. This is about the summer internship placement. "He said 'Saale, merifatihuihai'" (Sharma 84). The second example is about to do the project work in group "... the general rule to finish a project was jiskipehlepategi, wohikaamkarega" (Sharma 155).

There are various features of the kind of diction uses in the novel. Apart from the dialect used in modern colleges,

there are words adopted from Indian languages like- Hindi. There is a hoard of Hindi words use in the novel. Some of them are- "Lungi", "KurtaPujama", 'Bhojanalay', 'Ghoonghat', 'bahus', 'Katta', 'Yaar', 'Ladke', 'Baguranis' etc. Name of dishes have been mentioned, like- 'buttered toast and jam', 'Idalis', 'Vadas', 'sambhar', 'Pakoras', 'Masala paapad', 'Poor chhole'. Sanskrit word also used by author in the novel like 'Mantra', 'Gyan'.

The college dialect which has been derived by the students has many aspects like- abbreviations, repetition of words and certain exceptional expressions. These aspects have been discussed below.

Abbreviations form an important component of the students' speech. The common words are used by them are abbreviated. They use 'C'mon' for come on, 'Ma'am' for madam, 'Placecome' for Placement Committee, 'iBank' for Information bank, 'PGP' for Post Graduate Program, 'IT' for Information Technology, 'Eco' for economics, 'DU' for Delhi University, 'CC' for Computer Center, 'RG' for Relative Grade, 'CGPA' for Cumulative Grade Point Average, 'CG' for CGPA, 'GD' for Group Discussion, 'PI' for Personal Interview etc.

One more feature of the college dialect is repetition of words to stress the importance like- 'Oye! Oye!', 'very very angry', 'Take that, take that' etc... Author writes the word in capital to give the special attention or put more weight like- 'THAT', 'HOAX', 'COMMITTED', 'SHOCK', 'DUDE'.

Certain unique expressions have also been used like: 'tic-tac-toe', 'a la', 'da', 'de la', 'et al' etc. some words uses in a very unique way like- 'Shekhar Bhai', 'Jaipal Bhai'. The word 'extra' is uses for the people who are not relative but have connect with family or live in the same society. The word 'lobbies' means it reflect here an area of the people.

Some of the sentences of the students can also be quoted which exemplify their dialect- "... noticed me and shouted at the top of his voice 'Saale PGP1, get your butt over here!'" (Sharma 42). "The seniors gave us some gyan about sponsorships and budgets..." (Sharma 75). Some modification did by the author in the word and uses it like: 'Haayee', 'Naa...', 'Hmm...', 'Haayeee!!!'

Apart from all these some words and sentences which need to be stressed are used in Italics like- "Now that was a problem — she was a *Baniya*, and I was a *Panjabi Brahmin*..." (Sharma 30). "It's no big deal *yaar*, you just seem way more affected..." (Sharma 88). "the only thing that worries me sometime is what *my* definition of winning..." (Sharma 171). "... if I do what I want *today* — not tomorrow, not day after" (Sharma, 171). Etc. There are sentences which are written in Hindi is also in italics — "*Anoushkakehaathpeelekabkarrahehai?* *Ladkijawaanhogayihai, zyaadaintezaar mat kijiye!*" (Sharma 31). "*Saahab, aap Kamal Hotel meinchalejaaiye, badiyahi, who saamnejo board chamakrahaaiuskepeechehai...*" (Sharma 128). "*AapkoSiligurijaanahai to aap is samayyaahaankyakarraheinha*" (Sharma 140).

Author uses the special structure of the sentence for giving the special attention in this novel like: 'oh-so-

impressionable', 'back-of-the-mind', 'bunk-but-do-not-flunk', 'I-am-like-this-only', 'pillar-to-post-running', 'take-it-as-it-comes', 'end-to-end', etc.... It is the part of the vocabulary.

Author uses some short words in the novel like : 'eh', 'Oh', 'Hmm...', 'Naa...', 'Yeah' This is the modern trend to use such a words in the novel. Author uses such word in which uses the two languages in single word like — 'Auntyji', 'Uncleji'. Author uses the words which carry the regional pronunciation and according to its pronunciation writes the words in English like — 'Shauchin' instead of Sachin, and 'Shourab' instead of Sourav. This is the pronunciations of the West Bengal people. Author uses one technique in which he does not directly gives the name of the person. But he gives the description about this particular person. For instance "...watching a baby faced boy-wonder from Mumbai take the cricketing world on..." (Sharma 14). "... Watching the Prince of Kolkata strip at the Lord's balcony" (Sharma 14).

Author uses such pet name in the novel and also gives the reason of some name for this pat name like : 'Panty', 'Thoku', 'Crazy Panther', 'King Khan', 'Champak', 'Chummi', 'Raja Saab', 'Sutta', 'Kaangadi' etc. Author gives the wonderful classification of the IIM students and gives name according to their dishes, area, their study institute, their grade and cast. Who are from North India calls 'NorthieLafanders or Lukkhas', who are from South India calls 'Sambhar Mafia or Dosa Dudes', the students who belong to the cultured Bengalis from Kolkata are called 'Bongs', every Marwari known as 'Maadus', Marwari who belongs to Kolkata is known as 'Cal-Maadu'. People with more than four years of work experience are called 'Daddus'. The students who graduated from well known institute with below average grade called 'lazy geniuses'. Who get D grad is called 'dakku'. Who get F grad is called 'fakka' etc.

The protagonist of the novel is Shekhar who watches movie and speaks dialogue in his ton like "... Waqt se pehle, aur kismet se zyada, nakisikokuchmilahai, aurnakuchmilega" (Sharma 174). Shekhar also indicates the movie songs like- 'Tip TipBarsaPani', 'DilKeArmaanAansuon Mein Beh Gaye'.

The novelist has given great importance to diction. The unique diction of the modern students in campus is vividly captured.

Conclusion

Diction is the vital part of the novel. Authorsarevividly captured the unique diction of the present time. They use the diction in such a way that readers are mesmerised. He utilises various aspect of the diction to draw the things which he desires to do for instance: short sentences, use of standard vocabulary, modern slang, words adopted from Indian languages, name of vegetable and edible thing and quite a lot of dishes in these different languages, abbreviations form, repetition of words to stress the importance, unique expressions, local dialect, words and sentences which need to be stressed are used in italics, special structure of the sentence for giving the special attention, sort of word throughout the novel, idioms and leave the sentence half way to present a lively college life. Authors use the simple language.

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