



The evolution of Direct and Indirect Speech In George Bernard Shaws plays and its impact in English literature.

Dr T Eswar Rao, Asst. prof, P G DEPT. of English, Berhampur University,
Bhanja Bihar, Ganjam, odisha - 760007

Abstract : Pragmatics is concerned with bridging the explanatory gap between sentence meaning and speaker's meaning, the study of how context influences the interpretation is crucial. In this setting, context refers to any factor linguistic, objective and subjective-that affects the actual interpretation of signs and expressions. Pragmatics is interested predominantly in utterance, made up of sentences and usually in the context of conversation. Sentence meaning is the literal meaning of the sentence and speaker meaning is the concept that the speaker is trying to convey. The ability to understand the speakers intended meaning is called pragmatic competence. Pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker or writer and interpreted by a listener.

Keywords: Pragmatics, defence, vocal symbols

Introduction

Shaw was a great genius. His interests were multifarious. As a dramatist, orator and social reformer, Shaw acquired immense popularity all the world over. He has gone to the roots of conventional belief and ideas. He came to be recognized and honored as one of the greatest intellects of the modern age. Pragmatics is concerned with bridging the explanatory gap between sentence meaning and speaker's meaning. The study of how context influences the interpretation is crucial. In this setting, context refers to any factor-lingistic, objective and subjective-that affects the actual interpretation of signs and expressions. Pragmatics is interested predominantly in utterances, made up of sentences and usually in the context of conversation. Sentence meaning is the literal meaning of the sentence and the speaker meaning is the concept that the speaker is trying to convey. The ability to

understand the speaker's intended meaning is called pragmatic competence. Pragmatics is the study of invisible meaning or meaning that derives not only the words and structures used, that is , semantics and syntax but also from the situation of utterance and how that effects what the speaker means . The classifications of speech acts by J.L Austin and J.R Searle along with the theory of speech acts are central to the study. The study has attempted to present a pragmatic analysis of Shaw's use of context in his three dramatic works-arms and the man, candida, aand man and superman. The present study is to interpret and analyze the possibilities of intended meaning behind the literal meaning of the utterances of the characters in Shaw's three plays selected for the study. The study intends to indentify and examine the different direct and indirect speech acts in the three



selected plays which are foregrounded in the frame work of their contexts. And to analyse the three selected plays by G B Shaw against the contextual particulars as are discussed in direct and in indirect speech acts. And to explain the underlying meaning of the dialogue spoken by the characters against their social, cultural, economic and psychological background, and to categorize and interpret the plays selected against the social and cultural aspects of their context, and to help the students of English to enhance their ability of understanding and appreciating works of acts in general . Candida is waiting for the bids from her husband Morel and the poet lover Marchbanks in the auction scene of the play Candida . It is her husband who presents his bid first saying that he has "nothing to offer" to her except: "My strength for your defence ,my honesty for your surety , my ability and industry for your livelihood ,and my authority and position for your dignity . That is all it becomes a man to offer to a woman".

The fugitive slider Bluntschli in *Arms and the Man* says, "I have no ammunition, what use are cartridges in battle? I always carry chocolate instead and I finished the last cake of those hours ago".

It is observed from these illustrations that what is said is not always determined by what is meant by the sentence being uttered. This has already been noticed in the case of utterances from Shaw's plays. In order to examine, interpret and analyze the hidden, relied and untapped potential of Shaw's plays it is proposed to apply the principles of pragmatics in general and direct and indirect speech acts in particular.

The scope of the study is set by the form of literature, the use of the language as the basis material, the discipline chosen for analysis and the applied component, the scope of the study is set by the form of literature as the genre chosen for analytical interpretation is drama, Shaw's three dramatic works have set the scope of the present study. The play selected will be approached in respect of the use of language in the dramatic component of dialogue. The scope of the study is determined by the discipline of pragmatics- the study of the use of language in respect of functions and speech act theory that is part of pragmatics. This leads to the distinction of utterance into direct speech acts and indirect speech acts the study focus on the investigation of illustrative examples. The study has an applied component and illustrative examples will substantiate the five types of both direct speech and indirect speech acts. The scope of the study is determined by the physical constraint of conducting a research study with the prescribed norms in respect of time and space axis.

Language is a system of vocal symbols used conventionally by a speech community for purposes of communication. Language is a system of conventionally spoken or written symbols by means of which human beings as members of a social groups and participants, in its culture, communicate. The study of language has developed during the last hundred fifty years as a system of systems such as phonetics, morphology, syntax, semantics, stylistics, and pragmatics and the related disciplines of sociolinguistic and psycholinguistics.

The act of verbal communication consists of the event in which the addresser sends



message to the addressee. The act of verbal communication requires a context, a code common to the addressed and the addressee and finally a contact, a physical channel and psychological connection between the encoder and the decoder. The six factors involved in any act of verbal communication are (i) Context, (ii) Addresser, (iii) Message, (iv) Addressee, (v) Code, (vi) Contact. Charles Morris dealt with the study of signs, that is, semiotics. He identified in 1938 three ways of studying signs—syntax, semantics and pragmatics. The term pragmatics is thus traced back in its use to the 1930s. Syntax is the study of relations of signs to one another. Semantics studies how the signs are related to the objects to which they are applicable. Pragmatics is the study of relation of signs to interpreters. The interpreters are the users of signs and pragmatics is the study of relationship of signs to their users.

The Vienna group of philosopher and mathematician developed a very influential school of thought called logical positivism. What is now called the descriptive fallacy is the central doctrine of logical positivism. In logical positivism, the view that is held is that the only philosophically interesting function of language is that of making true or false statements. It rests on the verificationist article of meaning which is based on the idea that unless a sentence can be verified and tested for its truth or falsity, it's strictly speaking meaningless. Sentence that are not used to make verifiable or falsifiable propositions are simply meaningless, in view of the holders of logical positivism. In place of the initial distinction between constatives and performatives, Austin substituted a three way contrast among the kinds of act that are performed when language is

put to use, namely the distinction between locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts all of which are characteristics of most utterance, including standard example of both performatives and constatives. According to the theory of speech acts, people make use of words to perform actions, which are typically marked by the use of performatives. Austin says that performatives are not like constatives that can be assessed by being either true or false.

G B Shaw is a world class dramatist, second only to Shakespeare in the history of English drama, who is famous by his prolific versatility, originality, modernity, optimism, iconoclastic, his doctrine of Life Force and Creative Evolution and his comic vision. His humor is peculiarly brilliant, sharp Shavian humor marked with his use of wit, paradox epigram, irony and satire, his skill of characterization is illustrated through his characters like Bluntschli, Raina, Jack Tanner, Ann Whitefield, Candida, her husband Morel and the romantic dreamer Marchbanks. His craftsmanship is noticed in his use of the innovative stage directions, modern techniques of stage management and his thought provoking indispensable prefaces. His use of brilliant dialogues, sparkling wit, paradoxical and satirical tone and humorous treatment bring out his effective use of language.

Conclusion

The functions of speech acts, their felicity conditions and modified classification provide the basis of the present analytical study. The contextual background, the social, cultural, economic and psychological background and other features have been interpreted and



analyzed in the present study to make it and applied study of theoretical pragmatic principles. It is a practical pragmatics-oriented handbook and workbook of both the direct speech acts and indirect speech acts.

Reference:

Alan Cruse (2006): A Glossary Of Semantics And Pragmatics "Edinburg, Edinburg University Press.

Akjamian et al (2001): "Linguistics: An Introduction to Language and Communication" New Delhi, Prentice Hall, India.

Berst Charles A. (1973): "Bernard Shaw and the Art of Drama "Illinois, University Of Illinois Press.

Evans, T. F. (1997): "George Bernard Shaw: The Critical Heritage New York, Rutledge.

Frank Harris (2008): "George Bernard Shaw ".Hertfordshire, Wordsworth Editions L.T.D.