

ANALYSIS OF UNSEEN POEM AND PROSE PASSAGE

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HOW TO ANALYSE A POEM

(1). Basic approach: 3 Questions-

(i). What is it about?

(ii). How is it done?

(iii). Does it succeed?

(2). Subject-- from the poets' experience of life,

Content-- unique co-existence of a public

Subject with a particular and concrete form.

(3).

SENSE

From plain sense to sensuous

apprehension- two important stages in
practical criticism.

(4). Begin by noting down the most obvious thing that comes to you after you have read the poem.

FEELINGS

Then move towards a verbal analysis of the poem, noting the development of meaning taking place as the word progress.

tone

Then comment critically on the language devices used. Respond to Rhyme, Rhythm, Rhetorical devices etc.

INTENTION

Then conclude by fusing together all the remarks you have made earlier, and formulate a sort of judgement.

(5). Remember to compare and contrast in the main text of your appreciation at relevant points.

The meaning of lines of poetry are not merely its sense. As **Dr. Richards** points out, the meaning includes feeling, intention and tone also. Let us examine the meaning of the following poem in this light.

Still to be neat, still to be drest,
As you were going to a feast;
Still to be powder'd still perfumed;
Lady, it is to be presumed,
Though art's hid causes are not found,
All is not sweet, all is not sound.

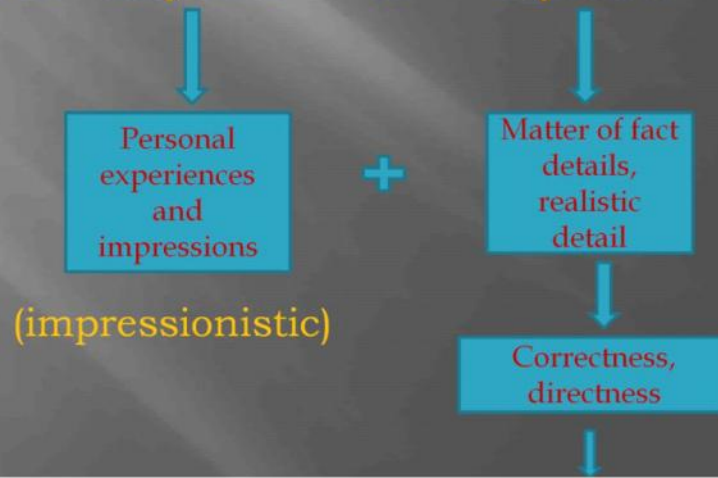
Give me a look, give me a face,
That makes simplicity a grace;
Robes loosely flying, hair as free :
Such sweet neglect more taketh me
Than all th' adulteries of art;
They strike mine eyes, but not my heart.

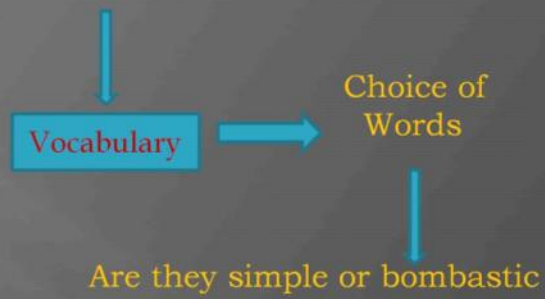
Here the feeling is one of indignation. The poet does not like the faultless make-up of the lady. The intention of the poet is to correct the lady. The tone is the tone of rebuke. The poet says that he can admire faultless art but a little neglect can get his love.

HOW TO ANALYSE UNSEEN PASSAGES

(i). Whether the passage for analysis is in a clear or obscure style.

(ii). Whether it is subjective or objective.





- (i). Do the words help the writer work out the central idea clearly and pointedly? → A good passage or good piece of composition.
- (ii). If the words don't help the writer, but decorate instead the passage with use of far-fetched comparison, (- metaphors and similes)
- ~ We will call it an Ornamental Style or Ornate Style (Purple Passage)
 - ~ The passage has a poetic rhythm or reads like a piece of poetry.

We can raise questions as: How are the sentences?
Are they short or long?
Clumsy or Clear?

As prose is an affair of statement only, the meaning of a prose passage is simply the sense. For example, let us take the following passage :-

“But whatever the nature of the topic, the poet’s business is always the same. He must, out of the subtly adjusted sound and sense of words, contrive such a texture of intensities and complexities of meaning, of unsuspected filaments of fine allusion and suggestion, as will enable these gossamers to capture and convey into our minds just those fleeting, gleaming qualities of experience which elude the hold of everyday straightforward language.”

The meaning of the passage is that all the poets write poetry in the same way and that is to make such a texture of words as can capture that part of an experience which the ordinary language cannot express. This texture suggests a lot by the sound and sense of words and so it can express more than the everyday straightforward language.

THANK

YOU