



A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE DRAMATIC IRONY CONCEPT

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Irony is the reciprocity of poetic experience. Some critics have explained it as a deference of two knowledge levels. Irony is a western literary concept. There are many kinds and usages of irony, Verbal irony, Structural irony, Stable irony, Unstable irony, Socratic irony, Dramatic irony, Tragic irony, Cosmic irony, Romantic irony, Classical irony, Situational irony etc. The dramatic irony what the cognizance of audience, unknown something of *dramatis personae* is a main kind of irony. In Oedipus drama, audience know about the augury of gods, *Jocasta* and others who are the *dramatis personae* known it the end of the drama. The Mark Antony's speech of Julius Caesar, written by William Shakespeare is an ironical act. Mark Antony want damaged the personality of killers of Julius Caesar. However, he compliment by soft words to killers. He calls as 'honorable Brutes', who is the main killer of Julius Caesar. The citizens can able to understand the ironical meanings of this speech and after they killed Brutes and his party. The *twin menaechmi*, written by Plautus is another western example about dramatic irony. The eastern drama writers have used dramatic irony concept also, to increase the meanings and *Rasa* of their dramas. *Rathnawali*, written by *Sri Harshadewa* and *Abhignana Sakunthala*, written *Kalidasa kavi* are examples. The audiences know what the identity of *Sagarika* is. They know her as the princess *Rathnawali* who is the daughter of king *Wickramabhahu* of Sri Lanka. However, the *dramatis personae* known it the end of the drama. King *Dushshanta* of *Abhignana Sakunthala* lulls an unknown child in the ending episode. Finally, king knows him as his own son. In Sinhalese stage, lot of dramas has produced with dramatic irony. *Tharavo Igilethi* written by *Lushan Bulathsinhala*, *Wessanthara* written by *Ediriweera Sarachchandra*, *Suba saha Yasa* written by *Saiman Nawagaththegama*, *Charandas* directed by *Parakrama Niriella* are examples. The writers and producers of those dramas have used irony concept to increase the *rasa* of their dramas. The objective of this research is discussion about the irony concept of foreign and Sri Lankan dramas. This research based on primary and secondary sources. Dramas and basic literary criticism books study as the primary sources and ideas of modern critics study as the secondary sources. Dramatic irony is a very important part of dramas, which related with all traditions of world.

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