



Ivor Armstrong Richards as a critic

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Abstract

Criticism consists of asking and answering rational questions about literature. Criticism flourishes in an atmosphere of intellectual freedom and inquiry. A critic is an ideal judge and reader who bring to bear a trained judgement on whatever he reads. I.A. Richards, the pioneer of the new criticism. I.A. Richards was regarded as the most important psychological critic who has studied poetry methodically. He mutually with Eliot is the most influential critic in the twentieth century Anglo- American criticism. Richards was the first critic who realized the importance of psychology and the impact it made on the reader and society. He was a man of wide learning. He was widely read not only in literature, but also in psychology, philosophy, aesthetics, the superior arts and the wide ideology of various sciences.

Keywords: criticism, psychology, literature, I.A. Richards

Introduction

I.A. Richards as a psychological critic

The psychosomatic schools of criticism aspire to formulate criticism further scientific by an enlarged application of psychological knowledge to its problems. The critic through whose mediation psychology was to make the greatest impact upon literary criticism was I.A. Richards. His principle critical works have given a new dimension to modern criticism. His reputation as a critic lies on a partial amount of critical books he wrote. The relevance of psychology to literary studies emerges clearly in his book, *The Foundations of Aesthetics* (1922), written in collaboration with his two friends. I.A. Richards is not merely learned and conceptual but also iconoclastic and innovative. He is a hinder promoter of seal textual and verbal revise and analysis of a vocation of skill without reference to its author and the age. His approach is pragmatic and empirical.

Value of Poetry

Richards defines the poem as “the artist’s experience”. He also considers the worth of this experience or state of mind. Experiences are naturally either good or bad. The intellect is ever occupied in the unaware process of reunion their contradictory claims in such a way that success is obtained for the greater number or mass of them for the mostly essential and the position. I.A. Richards gives his observation on the value of poetry in the part ‘Art and Morals’ in *Principles of Literary Criticism*.

To know the genuine scenery of verse, we have to understand clearly “how the intellect works in knowledge is”. There are incompatible instincts and wishes, as he calls them, in the soul brain. Man is frequently among contradictory pulls from diverse directions and therefore he suffers from mental uneasiness. The major purpose of fine art is to enable person brain to organize itself more quickly and completely than it

could do otherwise. Art is a means we know how to get touching balance, mental balance, and calm.

I.A. Richards Views on Practical Criticism

A study of literary Judgement reveals that Richards is a staunch advocate of a close textual and verbal study and analysis of a work of art. Entirety meaning of a poem is combination of several contributory meanings of different types;

- Sense
- Feelings
- Tone
- Intention

Sense

It means to create suggestion to rather, that is, the writer says something he wants to direct his hearers’ attention upon some state of affairs, to present to them some items for considerations and to excite in them some thoughts about these items.

Tone

It means the attitude of the writer towards his readers. The author or the orator chooses and arranges the terms another way as his spectators varies, in deliberate recognition of his relation to them. We differentiate between the pitch of influence in some people when talking to their inferiors and the tone of friendship when sparking to their equals.

Words have different meanings in different contexts. Sense and feeling have a mutual dependence Words also acquire a rich associative value through their use by different poets in different contexts.

The importance of vocabulary is also determined by measure and Metre. Rhythm results from the repetition of particular sounds and the expectancy this repetition arouses in the mind.

Metre is a specialized form of rhythm. Rhythm made further usual and cast into set and well- shaped mold.

Conclusion

Thus, Richards, an advocate of a close textual and verbal study of a work of art He is the first great critic since Coleridge who has formulated a systematic and complete theory of poetry and his views are highly original and illuminated. He harnessed his stupendous learning for the compounding of an amazingly new and original theory of poetry. I.A. Richards is at one with the new critics in his stress on close textual and verbal study of a poem. He was the pioneer of psychological criticism.

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