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CHARACTER PLANNING

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Dear learner, you have to know about the plot of the story in the previous lesson. In this lesson we will learn about character planning in the drama. You too must have ever seen a drama being staged or whenever you watch it, you will find that there are many types of characters in the play. The main ones among these are - hero, heroine, co-hero, anti-hero, other supporting characters of the hero and heroine etc. All these characters have their own characteristics in carrying forward the story of any play or in the presentation of the play. In this lesson we will learn what things should be kept in mind in character planning? What are the main characteristics of the main characters of the play?



LEARNING OUTCOMES

After studying this lesson, you-

- know the concept of character planning in drama;
- know the differences between hero and heroine in drama;
- know the differences between characters with examples; and
- know the other supporting characters of the hero and heroine in the drama.

5.1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO CHARACTER PLANNING

All the characters who are part of the plot are connected to the plot of the play. Every character in the play has his own special personality. This personality is a set of certain principles and beliefs. There are various characters in the play. It is the responsibility of

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the Nata (actor) to bring them to life (Jivanta). The main character of the drama is the hero. He represents the theme of the play's plot. The character with whom the hero conflicts is the antihero. There are some characters who play an active role in the entire story. Some of them are just there to take the story forward. The author also conceptualizes some characters in the story who appear only in some parts of the play. Such characters may have an important role according to the plot and sometimes their role is only to accelerate the drama. These characters only help the audience focus on the theme or main characters of the play. Characters have to be portrayed according to their character. The hero has to keep his character perfect according to his role. Hero and heroine are such characters who display some human values according to the story. Ultimately, characters must be portrayed and developed as characters for their characterization.

In the narrative, the story is taken forward through special dialogues of the characters. The entire story reaches the audience through dialogue between the characters of the play. End: How much a play is enjoyed by the audience mainly depends on the dialogues being spoken by them. Therefore, the content of dialogues and the quality of their delivery play a major role in creating impact in a drama performance. Dialogues reveal the personality of the characters. Also, the manner of speaking, the accent, the tone, the way of speaking, the appropriate pauses in the dialogue, all these reveal a lot about the character of the character. Through these dialogues the social status, past and family background of the characters are revealed. In this way, all things should be kept in mind while conceiving the characters in the play.

5.2 MAIN CHARACTERS OF THE DRAMA

5.2.1 Hero

The hero takes the dramatic story to its conclusion. That's why he is called 'hero' or 'Nayaka'. The Hero is the second distinguishing element of the Rupaka. Here the term 'Neta (Actor)' does not only include the hero but also all the characters like hero, heroine, wit, chet, chetty etc.

Qualities of a Hero- According to Acharya Dhananjay, a hero should be humble, sweet, sacrificial, clever, well-spoken, keeping people happy, having a pure heart, eloquent, noble, stable, young and having intelligence, enthusiasm, memory, honor and art. One should be skillfully coordinated and determined, brilliant, brave, scholarly and religious (Dasarupaka, 2.1-2). Based on these qualities, Acharya Dhananjay has given three characteristics of a hero -

Types of Hero	Qualities
Uttam Hero	The hero having all the qualities is called the best hero.
Madhyama Hero	A hero who is inferior in some qualities is called a Madhyam hero.
Adhama Hero	Those who are inferior in all qualities are called low level heroes.

Types of Heroes

All heroes have patience (Dheera). This is the reason why the word 'Dheera' is associated with all the distinctions of the hero. On the basis of human nature, four types of heroes have been described - Dheeralalit, Dheeraprashant, Dheerodatta and Dheeroddhat.

Types of Heroes	Qualities and characteristics of the hero
Dheeralalita	This type of hero is carefree, artistic, happy and soft. In Sanskrit plays it is mainly the king. Who wants to achieve the happiness of his beloved by removing the obstacles created by his queen's natural jealousy. The hero of the play is Dheeralalit. Udayan, the hero of Ratnavali drama, falls in this category.
Dheeraprasanta	Along with the qualities of Dheeralalit Nayak, Dheeraprashant Nayak is selfless, kind, polite and just. The hero of the episode generally falls into this category. The hero of Mrichchakatika is Charudatta and the hero of Malati Madhav is Madhav Dhirprashant hero.
Dheerodatta	Dheerodatta hero is a Mahasattva, very serious, unbroken, forgiving, stable, ego-less and steadfast. The heroes of drama are usually Dheerodatta. Jimutavahana, the hero of Nagananda drama, falls in this category.
Dheeroddhata	This type of hero is full of greed and jealousy, elusive, disguised, arrogant, fickle, fierce and greedy. Parashuram is the courageous hero in Mahavircharita.



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5.2.2 Other characters in the play

There are many characters to move the story of the play forward. Without which the story cannot be taken forward. Their details are given in the table below.

Character	Characteristics
Sub-hero	The sub-hero is also the main character like the hero but he has some lesser qualities as compared to the hero. This story is the ensign and hero of the upcoming story. This helps in the success of the hero.
Anunayaka (Persuader)	He is junior to the hero. Through his efforts he contributes to the hero's business. The hero has some of the same qualities as the hero. It has no purpose of its own.
Anti Hero	This acts as the main obstacle in the hero's achievement of his goal. He is stubborn, arrogant, greedy, stubborn, sinful and addicted. The antihero is the enemy of the hero.
Clown	The clown is the companion and friend of the hero. He creates humor through his attire and behaviour. According to Vishwanath, the clown is adept in the Srngara Rasa and is a maanbhanjaka of respectable heroines. It is named after some flower or spring etc.
Wit	He is the hero's servant and devotee. He is adept in one of the arts like dance and singing. According to Natyashastra, Wit is a brilliant, sweet-spoken, poet and clever person.
Cheta	This is also a supporting character of the hero. According to Acharya Bharat, a Chet is discordant, multi-lingual, deformed, smelly, expert in valid and invalid.
Shakara	According to Acharya Bharat, a person wears bright clothes, gets angry without any reason and becomes happy quickly, has many vices and is of low nature. Complete development of sugar is visible in Mrichchakatika. Mention of shakar is also found in Abhijnana Shakuntal, but after that the absence of shakar is visible in Sanskrit plays.

Kanchukia	The old Brahmin who entered the king's inner chamber, was skilled in all tasks, was coordinated with many virtues, was called 'Kanchuki'. Kanchuki was a well-wisher and devoted servant of the king.
Pratihari	The maid who lives near the main hero or the king and gives information about state functions like treaties, ceremonies etc. is called 'Pratihari'.
Messenger	The messenger is endowed with many qualities. According to Acharya Vishwanath, there are three types of messengers - Nishrishtarth (who has full authority to work on a special occasion and who solves all the questions himself after knowing the feelings of both, he is called 'Nishrishtarth' messenger), Mitartha (the one who has the authority to do limited work is called 'Mitartha' messenger) and Sandeshharak (the one who only delivers the message is called 'Sandeshharak' messenger).
Other characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaman, Shandha (impotent), Kirat, Mlechchha, Abhir etc. of the harem • Hero's makeup assistant, financial assistant (minister etc.), punishment assistant, soft assistant and religious assistant. • Dandasahayaks include Amatya, Pradvivak, Mitra, Kumar, Atvik, Samant etc. • Narmashayak is an antpur (palace of queens) assistant only. • Ritvik, priest, ascetic etc. are counted among religious assistants.

5.2.3 Heroine

The heroine has the general qualities of the hero mentioned earlier. On the basis of these common qualities, there are three types of heroines-

- Swakiya Heroine- This type of heroine is a woman with qualities like modesty, aarjava (simplicity) etc., adept at practicality, skilled in household work, a married woman and devoted to her husband. There are three types of heroines of this type - Mugdha, Madhya and Pragalbha.



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Types of Heroine	Characteristics
Mugdha (Infatuated) heroine	This one is youthful, new in lust, shy, shy away from Suratakrida, and soft even in love and anger.
Madhya heroine	She is full of youth and lust, adept in Ratikrida and can tolerate Ratikrida till the end.
pragalbha heroine	She becomes sexually aroused with the onset of youth, is fully conversant with the skills of Ratikrida, is shameless in Ratikrida, becomes unconscious during Ratikrida with her husband and has developed expressions.

- **Parakiya Nayika-** Parakiya Nayika is not the hero's own married wife. She is either a married girl or an unmarried girl. Thus, there are two types of Parakiya heroine - Parodha and Anudha.

Types of Heroine	Characteristics
Parodha heroine	This is someone else's married wife. Even after being married, she desires to have affair with another man and is shameless.
Anudha Heroine	She is an unmarried girl and is young and shy. She is called Parakiya because she is dependent on her parents.

- **Samanya-** This type of heroine is skilled in Ratikrida, intelligent and a cunning courtesan. She loves the hero only until his money runs out. It is also of two types - Anurakta and Virakta.

Types of Heroine	Characteristics
Anurakta	Anurakta is depicted as a heroine in drama etc.
Virakta	Due to being emotionless and detached, she cannot be a heroine (character) in drama etc.

Heroine's assistants- There are some assistants who join the heroines with the hero. Dooti, Dasi, Sakhi, Padosin, Shilpini, Sanyasini, Chetti, Dai, Kathini, Karu, Viprashnika etc. are the helpers of the heroine, who help the heroine in meeting the hero.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 5.1

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1. How many types of heroes have been considered in drama on the basis of human nature?
 - (a) 2
 - (b) 5
 - (c) 3
 - (d) 4
2. Which of the following is not a type of hero?
 - (a) Dheeralalit
 - (b) Dheerodatta
 - (c) Sweya
 - (d) Dheerprashanta
3. What type of hero is the hero of Mrichchakatikam?
 - (a) Dheeralalit
 - (b) Dheerodatta
 - (c) Dheerodhat
 - (d) Dheerprashant
4. Which of the following is a companion and friend of the king?
 - (a) Shakara
 - (b) Cheta
 - (c) wit
 - (d) clown
5. According to Vishwanath, how many types of messengers are considered?
 - (a) 5
 - (b) 8
 - (c) 3
 - (d) 2
6. How many types of heroines are there on the basis of common qualities?
 - (a) 2
 - (b) 3
 - (c) 8
 - (d) 5
7. How many types of Swakiya Nayika are considered?
 - (a) 2
 - (b) 3
 - (c) 8
 - (d) 5

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**WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT**

- There are various characters in the play. It is the responsibility of the Nata (actor) to bring them to life. The main character of the drama is the hero. He represents the theme of the play's plot. The character with whom the hero conflicts is the antihero. There are some characters who play an active role in the entire story. Some of them are just there to take the story forward. The author also conceptualizes some characters in the story who appear only in some parts of the play. Such characters may have an important role according to the plot and sometimes their role is only to accelerate the drama.
- It is the hero who takes the dramatic story to its conclusion. That's why he is called 'hero' or 'Nayaka'.
- On the basis of human nature, four types of heroes have been described - Dheeralalit, Dheeraprashant, Dheerodatta and Dheeroddhat.
- There are many characters to move the plot of the play forward. Without which the story cannot be taken forward. Like Sahanayak, Anunayak, Pratinayak etc.
- On the basis of general qualities, there are three types of heroines - Swakiya, Parakiya and Samanya.

**ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS****5.1**

1. (d)
2. (c)
3. (d)
4. (d)
5. (b)
6. (c)
7. (b)