



11

INDIAN DRAMATURGY

In this lesson we will discuss about the Indian dramaturgy. Indian dramaturgy is the product of native genius. In ancient India, there were many forms of theatre prevailing that belonged to the indigenous tribes.



OBJECTIVES

After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

- explain the main component of dramaturgy;
- list the types of play (Drama); and
- list the stages for performing a play.

11.1 MAIN CONCEPTS RELATED TO DRAMATURGY

Natyashastra (Ns) is considered as fifth 'Veda' which includes the elements of the four 'Vedas' as dance from the Rig, song from the *Sāma*, mimicry from *Yajur* and passion from *Atharva*. In Natyashastra, all aspects of the theatrical art had been



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explained by the Bharatmuni. He collected all the aspects of the theatre in form of the theory from the ancient custom of oral recitation of poetry at social and religious gatherings and functions.

According to the Natyashastra, the sentiments (*Rasa*), the psychological states (*Bhāva*), the histrionic representation (*Abhinaya*), the practices (*Dharmi*), the styles (*Vātti*), the local uses (*Pravātti*), the success (*Siddhi*), the notes (*Svara*), the instrumental music (*ātodya*), the songs (*Gānam*), the stage (*Ranga*) are the main components of Dramaturgy (*Nātyasaāgraha*).

"Rasā bhāvā hyabhinaya dharmāvāttipravāttayh !

Siddhāsvarāstaātodyām gānam rangasc sañgrahah!!"
(Natyshastra-VI.10)



INTEXT QUESTIONS 11.1

1. Fill in the blank:

Natyshastra of Bharatmuni (Ns) considered as fifth 'Veda' which includes the elements of the four 'Vedas' as dance from the... (a)....., song from the ...(b)....., mimicry from(c)..... and passion from(d).....

11.2 TEN KINDS OF PLAY

Bharatmuni described about the ten kinds of play in Natyashastra namely:

- Nātaka (नाटक),
- Pprakarana (प्रकरण),
- Anka (अंक),
- Vyāyoga (व्यायोग),
- Bhaānaā (भाण),
- Sāmavakāra (समवकार),
- Vithi (वीथी),
- Prahasan (प्रहमण),
- Dima (डिम), and
- Ihāmrga (ईहामृग).

The Styles i.e. vritti (वृत्ति) play very important role in dramatic work. Styles preceded the ten kinds of plays. The varieties of plays came into existence due to the varieties of styles. 'Where nataka (नाटक) and prakarana (प्रकरण) both have varieties of situation and made up of all the styles, उत्सृष्टिकांक (अंक), vyayoga (व्यायोग), bhana? (भाण), samavakara (समवकार), Vithi (वीथी), Prahasan (प्रहसण), Dima (डिम) and ihamrga (ईहामृग) do not include graceful style' that is kaisikivritti (कैशिकीवृत्ति).

**Notes**



Notes

i) Nataka (The play)

Nataka (नाटक) have following specifications:

- Subject matter should be famous story or incident based.
- Hero of the story should be of noble nature (exalted nature) like Krisna (कृष्ण) and Rama (राम).
- Clan- Hero of the story should belong to the line of royal or seer like King Janaka (जनक) and ViŚvaamitra (विश्वामित्र).
- Hero should have under divine aegis (protection), should have superhuman powers,
- Life of the hero should be successful in his royal life and should have amorous pastime.
- Story of the nataka (नाटक) should be composed in suitable acts.
- Behaviour of the hero in different conditions such as joy and sorrow should be expressed through the sentiments and psychological states.

ii) The prakarana (i ढj .k)

In prakarana (प्रकरण), the writer composes the story by his own wit i.e. Story has own plot or newly created. All the character originated by the writer's imagination.



iii) The samavakara (समवकार)

Samavakara (समवकार) have following specifications:

- Samavakara (समवकार) has Gods and demons (*Asuras*) in its subject matter and,
- One among the God and the demons (*Asuras*) as its famous and exalted hero.

iv) The anka (अंक)

Anka (अंक) have following specifications:

- The incident of the play is fully expressed,
- But the seed is not finally disposed,
- It have more sentiments than one, arising from the upper characters.

v) The vyayoga (व्यायोग)

Vyayoga (व्यायोग) have following specifications:

- It has a well known hero,
- Include small number of female character,
- The event related in it should be of one day duration,



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vi) The bhana (भणन)

Bhana (भणन) have following specifications:

- It is acted only by the single character,
- It is of two types-one is recounting of one's own feelings and second, describing someone else's acts.
- It includes characters of dhurtas and vitas.

vii) The Vithi (वीथी)

Vithi (वीथी) have following specifications:

- It has only one act,
- Acted by only one person or by two,
- It include the character of the superior, middling or inferior type,
- It is of thirteen type.

viii) The Prahasan (प्रहसन)

Prahasan (प्रहसन) have following specifications:

- It is of two kind-the pure and the mixed,
- The pure contains comic disputations like bhiksus, Siva ascetics, Śrotriyavipr (श्रोत्रियविप्र), abounds in jocular remarks by people of law caste,

- The mixed has servants, courtesans, eunuchs, vi?as, dh?rtas, unchaste women appear with their immodest appearance.

ix) The Dima (fMe)

Dima (डिम) have following specifications:

- Its Hero should be well known and exalted,
- It consist four act and six sentiments expect erotic and comic,
- It have incidents like fall of meteors, earthquake, eclipse, conflict, combat etc.,

x) The ihamrga (b?keX)

Ihamrga (ईहामृग) have following specifications:

- It is constructed with well arranged plot,
- It has its dramatis personae divine males who are implicated in battle about divine females,

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 11.2**

1. Fill in the blank:
 - a. Nataka (नाटक) and both have varieties of situation and made up of all the styles,
 - b.preceded the ten kinds of plays.

Notes



Notes

2. Which type of Play has the Gods and demons (*Asuras*) in its subject matter?
3. Which type of play has the incidents like fall of meteors, earthquake, eclipse, conflict, and combat?
4. Which type of play includes the character of the superior, middling or inferior type?

11.3 STAGE FOR PERFORMING A PLAY PRODUCTION

A. Planning and Organizing

1. Prepare or Find a script.
2. Find a director (Sutradhar) or take a responsibility of director
3. make the arrangement of funding for expenditure.
4. Fix the time Schedule
5. make preparation for Stage (Rangmanch)
6. Take the help of friends as supporting staff or Hire support staff
7. talk to the artist for acting for play performance.

B. Bringing a Play to the Stage

1. Set a rehearsal schedule

2. Arrange for the creation or purchase of sets, costumes, lighting and other things.
3. Create a performance schedule
4. Promote the play.
5. present the play with full of inspiration and joy.

**Notes****WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT**

- Plays are of mainly ten types in our ancient tradition as Nataka (नाटक), Pprakarana (प्रकरण), Anka (अंक), Vyayoga (व्यायोग), Bhana (भाण), Samavakara (समवकार), Vithi (वीथी), Prahasan (प्रहमण), Dima (डिम), and Ihamrga (ईहामृग).
- Styles preceded the ten kinds of plays.
- Stages for performing a play production

**TERMINAL QUESTIONS**

1. Which type of play includes characters of dhurtas and vitas
2. Which type of play include small number of female character
3. Which type of play the hero of the story should be of noble nature (exalted nature) like Krisana and Rama .



Notes

**ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS****11.1**

1.
 - a. Rig,
 - b. Sama,
 - c. Yajur,
 - d. Atharva

11.2

1.
 - a. Prakarana,
 - b. Styles
2. Samavakara (समवकार)
3. The Dima
4. The Vithi