

E - MODULE

**BA/BSC./B.COM/BBA
SEMESTER - IV**

GENERAL ENGLISH

Robert Browning is known as an optimistic writer in English Literature. His poetry is about hope, faith and courage. Intellectual vigour and versatility are the hallmark of his dramatic art. *Porphyria's Lover* is a Dramatic Monologue. A dramatic monologue is a poem where a speaker, who is not a poet, addresses a silent listener. Browning had excelled this art with great distinction. *Porphyria's Lover* presents a complex character of the lover, who kills the woman very brutally in order to eternalise the moment of love. Later, he justifies his action by intervening God. He thinks God has not uttered a single word which means his act is justified in the eyes of God.

MOMENTS IN TIME

PORPHYRIA'S LOVER

The lover narrates the story describing the night scene..The rain has started early this night.The wind is strong and it appears as if it has woken up from sleep and it is tearing the top of elm trees viciously.The wind seems to be at its worse this night as it is disturbing the surface of the lake.The lover is sitting in his cottage and listening very carefully when suddenly Porphyria entered his cottage smoothly.She shut the cold and storm out by closing the door of the cottage.Then she kneeled and blazed the fire place which was cold and made the cottage warm.

In these lines the lover says that after making the cottage warm, Porphyria rose and removed the dripping cloak and shawl from her body. She kept her dirty gloves aside. She untied her hat and her long yellow hair fell down. Finally she sat by her lover's side and called him out. When her lover did not reply, Porphyria took her lover's arm and put it around her waist.. She made her smooth white shoulder bare and all her yellow long hair became disorderly. Then she bent down and made her lover's cheek lie on her bare shoulder. She spread her long hair all over.

In these lines the lover narrates that Porphyria whispered how deeply she loved him. At this moment she was emotionally weak. Her heart tried to keep her love strong but she was opposed by the obstacles that came in her way. She wanted to cut off the ties of family that stopped her from being united with her lover. She wanted to surrender herself to her lover forever. Her passion at times dominated her love but nothing could stop her not even the feast that was being held at her place tonight. A sudden thought struck in the mind of the lover when he saw Porphyria's love for him. He did not want the love of Porphyria to go in vain as she had not bothered about the wind and rain tonight.

In these lines the lover says that in order to be sure he looked into the eyes of Porphria. He felt extremely happy and proud as he noticed that Porphyria has started to worship him. He was surprised to see this kind of love in her eyes and this made his heart swell with happiness but his mind still debated as to what he should do. The moment when he saw her eyes he felt that she belonged to him only him. She was perfectly pure and good at this moment as there was no fear of anyone, no other thought in her mind. She belonged only to him and this made her love pure. Then, the lover found something to do. He held Porphria's long yellow hair and made a string of her hair and then he wound her hair around her little throat for three times and strangled her to death.

In these lines the lover says that when he strangled Porphria, she felt no pain. He reassures that she felt no pain. Then he opened Porphyria's eyes very carefully that looked like a bud that holds a bee. Her blue eyes seemed to be smiling without a stain in the same way as they did when she was alive. After that, he untied her hair from neck. Her cheeks blushed once again when he kissed her. The lover supported her head up with the help of his shoulder and it laid still. Her forehead had the rosy tint and it appeared to be smiling because it got its ultimate will. All that was rejected has fled at once and he as a lover feels that he has gained something.

The lover says that he as a lover of Porpyria has gained something. He continues saying that Porpyria's might have never thought that her darling wish would come true in this way. The entire night has passed away but the lover and the dead beloved haven't moved from there place and yet God has not said anything.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

VARIATION IN LANGUAGE

English language varies from one place to another. The English spoken in British Isles is entirely different from spoken in North America. Within the British Isles, English varies from one part to another. Similar is the case in United States, English of England is different from English used in Texas. The reason for this variation is dependent on the social factors including the place where the speaker was brought up.

The Sociolinguistics have found three main components of language that are responsible for bringing variation. First, lexicon- i.e., the vocabulary of a language. Second, grammar- i.e., the rules used for combining words to form phrases and sentences. Finally, phonology- i.e., the sounds of language and the rules that govern its pronunciation. The two main categories of linguistic variation can be distinguished. The first is referred to as between-group which specifies a person belonging to a specific group. Under this feature of English a native speaker of Scotland, New York or Texas can be identified. Such variation creates regional varieties known as dialects and other varieties related to speakers' gender, social class or ethnic group. Under between-group variety, regional variety is probably the most common one. We can easily recognise that a stranger doesn't belong to our part of the country by his accent or pronunciation. For eg., The Standard American English pronunciation of the words "car " and " park"

The natives of Massachusetts and speakers in United Kingdom drop the "r" when it is followed by a vowel and pronounce the words as KA and PAK.

Gender variety is another aspect highlighted by the researchers i.e the English used by men and women. For eg, Men use Non-Standard pronunciation -IN of the -ing ending

e.g, "I'm eatin" -mostly as compared to women. Men also use Non-Standard grammatical forms frequently than women. This is termed as sociolinguistic gender pattern.

The second category of linguistic variation is referred as variation within the individual. It is linked with changes in the social situations in which the individuals find themselves. This is also known as style shifting, which allows the speaker to use the style or language according to his social situation.

While studying variation within the individual, sociolinguists record the style shift and identify the authentic components of the situation. These variables include the variety of roles played by individuals depending on the relationship between the individual and the person whom he is speaking to. Another variable is the setting, the physical environment where the conversation occurs. The setting is likely to affect the style you use.

Research has provided evidence of phonological, grammatical and lexical variation within the individual. Here, the highlight will be on the lexical variation in forms of address- the names used by individuals while addressing others. For eg, assume you are talking to Dr. Mary Cooper. She is your teacher as well as your family friend and not much older than your age. You might address her in two possible ways- "Dr. Cooper" or "Mary" depending on the situation you find yourself in.

If you are in a classroom and she is teaching you, the correct way to address her is "Dr. Cooper". In case you are talking about a vacation plan with her at your residence, the setting, the role and your role has changed now. In this kind of situation you can address her as "Mary".

VOCABULARY STUDY : SYNONYMS

Find words in the article that are similar in meaning to the following.

- 1.without any differences -uniform
- 2.a different form of the same thing -version
- 3.a lot, a great deal- extensively
- 4.to watch closely and carefully- observe
- 5.widely accepted and used- familiar
- 6.to give something a name- label
- 7.informal and relaxed-casual
- 8.suitable for official,public situations- formal
- 9.a person whose position or status is lower- subordinate
- 10.a type of spoken communication-discussion

GRAMMAR

UNIT - 26

Can, Could and (be) able to

● Can is used for possibility or allowance..or that someone has the ability to do something..We can use can+infinitive
Eg-We **can see** see the lake from our bedroom window.

'I haven't got a pen.'"You **can use** mine.'

● The negative of can is can't

Eg-I'm afraid I **can't come** to the party on Friday.

● Can has only two forms: **can(present)** and **could(past)**.So sometimes it becomes necessary to use (be) able to.

Eg-I **can't** sleep. I **haven't been able to** sleep recently.

● Sometimes could is used as past form of can.It goes especially with:

see hear smell taste feel remember understand

Eg- We had a lovely room in the hotel.We **could see** the lake.

● **Could** is also used for general ability or seeking permission to do something.

Eg-My grandfather **could** speak five languages.

● **Could and was able to**

Could is used for general ability. But if you want to say that somebody did something in a particular situation, use **was/were able to** or **managed to**.

Eg-The fire spread through the building very quickly, but fortunately everybody **was able to escape/managed to escape**.

● The negative form **couldn't** is possible in all situations.

Eg- My grandfather **couldn't swim**.

UNIT -27

Could (do) and could have (done)

- ◆ **Could** is used for possible actions now or in the future.
(especially for suggestions)

Eg-A. What shall we do this evening?

B. We could go to the cinema.

- ◆ **Could** is used for actions that are not realistic
Eg- I'm so tired, I could sleep for a week.

- ◆ **Could have done** is used to talk about the past.

Eg- I was so tired, I could have slept for a week.

- ◆ **Couldn't** is used to say something would not be possible now.

Eg- I **couldn't live** in a big city. I'd hate it.

UNIT - 28

Must and Can't

- Must can be used when you believe something is certain.
Eg-Carol **must get** very bored in her job.She does the same thing every day.
- You can use can't to say that you believe something is not possible
Eg- You've just had lunch.You **can't be** hungry already
- Must have done and can't have done are used or past.
Eg- I didn't hear the phone.I **must have been asleep**.

UNIT -29

May and Might

- ◆ May or might is used to say that something is a possibility.
Eg- It **may** be true. Or It **might** be true.
- ◆ May have (done) or might have (done) are used for past.
Eg-A. I wonder why Kate didn't answer the phone.
B. She **may have been** asleep.
- ◆ Could is similar to **may and might**.
Eg- It's a strange story, but it **could** be true.(= It may/
might be true)

UNIT -30

May and Might 2

● May and Might are used for possible actions or happenings in the future:

Eg-Take an umbrella with you.It **might rain** later.

● Negative forms are may not and might not.

Eg-Liz **may not go** out tonight.She isn't feeling well.

● May and might can usually be used.

Eg- I **may go** to Ireland. Or I **might go** to Ireland.

● In case of unreal situation we use only might(not may)

Eg-If I were in Tom's position,I **might** look for another job.

● There is also a continuous form: may/might be -ing.
Eg- Don't phone at 8.30. I **might be watching (or I may be watching)** the film on television.

● May/Might be -ing is used for possible plans.
Eg- I'm **going to** Ireland in July. (for sure)
I **may be going (or I might be going)** to Ireland in July.

● Might as well
Eg. A. What time are you going out?
B. Well, I'm ready, so I **might as well go now.**

Reference:

Moments In Time

Making Connections

Murphy's English Grammar (Third Edition)
By Raymond Murphy

SUBMITTED BY : MANEET BEDI

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN ENGLISH

HANS RAJ MAHILA MAHA VIDYALAYA