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Hetroglossia

Hetroglossia is a term coined by Russian literary analyst and language philosopher Mikhail Bakhtin in his 1934 paper published in English as '*Discourse in the Novel*'. Bakhtin laid stress on the importance of novels and other forms of fiction writing having multiple dialects or forms of language mixed together. According to him, multiple languages exist within a single organized text. There is a coexistence of varieties within a single 'linguistic code'. Bakhtin, in the realm of this multiple languages stresses more on novel and argues that the power of novel begins in the coexistence and conflict between different types of speech. These may be speech of characters, speech of narrators, and even speech of the author.

The contemporary novel is the best literary form as far as application of *Hetroglossia* is concerned. Bakhtin feels that epic poetry does not contain this feature but it is the novel that contains it. Prose requires the element of the representation of multiple voices and finds it as a necessity there. For instance, a text that reflects the feature of *Hetroglossia* can portray a wide range of social varieties, thereby creating a world laden with realistic and socially diverse speech communities with different views.

In the novel, *Hetroglossia* introduces a re-organization of all the levels of a language current at the time described in there. It is believed by literary experts that multiple voices within a narrative can work with or against each other in specific ways. The contrast between these

voices is part of what creates meaning in a novel or similar work of art. Academics can provide many different examples of how these uses of diverse voices can provide insight to readers on the political, cultural, and social context of the work.

The literary experts believed that in a novel there is a common language of a given social group, used by the author as a common view in order to approach the reader. Secondly, the author will take distance from this common view, by objectifying it. Sometimes he will exaggerate, sometime he will agree; he will not be static, but in a uninterrupted movement. Finally, the common view will be linked to other languages or in a slow way or rapidly. In order to do so, the style of the novel will keep shifting from epic to journalistic, poetic and so on.

For Bakhtin any language will contain numerous voices and this becomes the defining trait of the novel. The diversity of style and language within a novel provides a structured artistic statement where originality arises through the combination of expression. A novel is the best way of expression as it contains multiple voices within a text. Bakhtin thought that *heteroglossia* was the blending of different world views through language. The writer, the audience and the characters in a novel create a new reality. In this Bakhtin was arguing against the purpose of language as a means of communication, since he believed that language could not relate directly to the external world.

In sum, Hetroglossia means the simultaneous use of different kinds of speech or other signs and the tension between them, and their conflicting relationship within one text. The idea behind heteroglossia refers to the concepts of different languages. The novel has been taken as the important medium portraying multiple voices within a text and there exists multiple varieties within a single language. Such a medium makes the reader aware of the differences that arise due to multiple voices within a text.

References:

Web Source:

Ivanovo, V. *Hetroglossia*. Journal of Linguistic Anthropology Vol. 9 June 1999. University of California Los Angeles. Retrieved on 25 April, 2020, from <https://www.jstor.org/stable/43102437>