

Consider Burkes' Speech on the East India Bill as a Specimen of Classical Oratory.

Edmund Burke is an extraordinary Irish orator, political thinker, a great humanitarian of 18th century England. He represents the finest of the oratorical qualities of English Language. His '**Speech on the East India Bill**' is a formal piece of oration with classical rhetoric and his speeches are remarkable for their political wisdom and insight.

Burke waged a practically life-long campaign against the injustices of British rule in India. In his speech he launches passionate assaults on the arbitrary abuse of power by the East India Company to the ruination of the people of India. Though he never visited India, he had thorough knowledge of India and the East India Company. He told the parliament that the geographical existence of India would cast light upon whether the object affected by the abuse of the East India Company's power be of importance sufficient to justify the measure and means of reform applied to it in this bill. To draw the attention towards the right and duty of the members of parliament, Burkes' rhetorical power is displayed in the following comments:

'We sold, I admit, all that we had to sell; that is our authority, not our control. We had not a right to make a market of our duties.'

Poetry is life force, the moving force of Burke's speech. In fact, he is the poet in prose. His eloquence is remarkable and his wisdom is profound and contemplative. He speaks in figures, images, symbols. The musical cadence of his sentences reflects the influence of his wide reading of poetry. His passions and feelings, his personal agony and anxiety towards the tyranny of the East India Company finds a spontaneous expression in his speech.

Burke is an orator of his own class. As an orator he skillfully uses various rhetorical devices to adorn his speech. The devices like rhythm, alliteration, assonance, consonance, repetition etc. characterize his great capacity of oration. By attacking Hastings Burke attacks the whole East India Company with his eloquent rhetoric.

Skillful use of ironies and sarcasm is one of the important features of a great orator and Burke is unique in this regard. His 'Speech on the East India Bill' is replete with ironies uttered in sarcastic tone. For example, when he says that the East India Company has 60,000 armed men, it runs the commerce of 'half the globe', he actually means that it is not supposed to have say so very subtle irony. Following example reflect Burke's use of sharp irony and sarcasm:

'The natives had, however, one consolation in the ruin of their judicature: they soon saw that it fared no better with the English government itself.'

Simile, metaphor and imagery are also dexterously employed by Burke in his Speech on the East India Bill. He compares Hastings with a 'wolf', a remarkable predatory.

In fine, Burke is a great orator by any standard. Burke is the greatest master in English of the rhetoric of political wisdom.

Write on Burkes' Prose Style

Burke was an Anglo-Irish statesman, author, orator and political philosopher. He was not only a great orator but also a prolific writer. As he was a one of the finest parliamentary orators in Britain, his prose style is characterized by proportion, dignity and harmony.

Burkes' is the prose of an orator. He employs all the rhetorical devices and figures in his writing. His style is the most strictly suited to the subject. Burke is a writer of romantic prose. The relation between Burke and the Romanticist is his power of investing with interest and color, the past experience of the race, and of making it appeal to the imagination.

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Burke's' style is dignified rather than graceful. His speech is all through marked by the devices of the orator-rhythm, alliteration, assonance, consonance, repetition, careful arrangement and balance of part etc. He is a master of what is called amplification. His prose is response to all the demands of thought and emotion, all the moods and tones.

Burke uses antitheses to sharpen the edge of an argument in the right place. In his speeches, he uses irony and sarcasm and these are his favorite weapons which supply his deficiency in the lack of humor. His 'Speech on the East India Bill' is replete with ironies uttered in sarcastic tone. For example, when he says that the East India Company has 60,000 armed men, it runs the commerce of 'half the globe', he actually means that it is not supposed to have say so very subtle irony.

Burke had a wealth of classical allusions and historical illustrations which are unmistakable proofs of his scholarship and erudition. Other devices used by Burke are: rhetorical anticipation of an opponent's objections, his pretended modesty, his colloquialisms, understatements, inversions, epigrams and condensed metaphor.

To sum up, we can say that Burke is the greatest master in English of the rhetoric of political wisdom.

Write on Burke's Attitude to India with Special Reference to His Speech on the East India Bill.

Edmund Burke's "Speech on the East India Bill" is a critique of the repression and tyranny caused by the British colonial rule over India. The rule of East India Company turned to be a tyrannous one. The treachery and fraudulence of the Company took the country on the verge of destruction. The suffering of the people and attitude of the Company shocked him deeply. He thinks that parliament should intervene and the reforms should be made for the sake of humanity, justice and principles of true policy.

Burke is a great political philosopher and he is impressed with the vastness, size and huge cultural varieties and rich traditions the Indian empire. The vast mass of India is composed of so many orders and classes of men, infinitely diversified by manners, by religion, by hereditary employment, through all their possible combinations.

Burke makes an inquiry regarding the number the quality and description of the inhabitants of India. There have been princes once of great dignity, authority and opulence. There are to be found the chiefs of tribes and nations. There are to be found an ancient and venerable priesthood, the depository of their laws, learning and history, nobility of great antiquity and renown; a multitude of cities merchants and bankers, individual houses of whom have once vied in capital with the Bank of England.

As to emphasize the importance of India, Burke compares India as the nearest parallel with the empire of Germany. He also compares it with the Austrian dominions. He found the Nabob of Oude equal to the King of Prussia. India is an empire of highly complicated nature, of great dignity and importance. Burke wanted to awaken something of sympathy for the unfortunate natives. But the East India Company failed utterly in this regard. They looked at the native Indians as a very remote object through a false and cloudy medium. As a consequence, it becomes difficult and delicate to handle the administration of India.

After describing the vast territory of India, Burke draws the attention of the members of parliament to the attitude, atrocity and oppression of the east India Company towards the Indians. Burke feels shocked to see the natives of India to be ruined by the hypocrisy of the Company.

In his ***Speech on the East India Bill***, he presents the sufferings of the Indians at the hands of those who govern India. As for example, Burke narrated the horrifying misfortunes of the Shah Alam, Shuja al-Daula and so on. Shuja al-Daula's head was cut off and delivered for money to a barbarian. His wife and children were seen begging handful of rice through the English camp. The whole nation was massacred and the country was damaged by the invasion and turned into a dreary desert and jungles.

In fine, Burke's attitude to India is based on his deep humanitarian love and sympathy. The monopoly of the East India Company and Hastings's tyrannous rule not only goes beyond the limit of brutality and political norms but also raises questions about the supremacy of the British Monarchy and Parliament.

