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Monday

MA: Sem IV . Short notesI.A Richards: Communication and the Artist-Introduction:

Ivor Armstrong Richards has created a landmark in the evolution of literary criticism. He was the founder of new criticism, a critical movement of mid 1900. The present essay Communication and the Artist is the fourth chapter of his Principles of literary criticism, published in 1924. He begins this chapter with the quote from Shelly's The Defence of Poetry that: -

"Poetry is the record of the best- and happiest moments of the happiest and best minds".

Two Basic Things in criticism.

Richards says that the two basic things in criticism are

- (i) values
- (ii) communication

Communication implies some experience to be communicated. People are so accustomed



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to this that they never try to analyse the process of communication. Human mind is an instrument of communication. He says :-

"Arts are the supreme form of the communication skill"

### AIM OF THE ARTIST

Communication is ~~an~~ important for the artist, but the artist rarely confess this. An artist writes for his own pleasure, but all arts aim at communication. The artist, whether he is a painter or poet work through certain medium. Both are engaged in communication of artist vision of life! The artist tries to communicate his experience in a perfect manner, because the value of his experience depends on the perfection. He cares to do his activity in a right manner.

### Limitation of the Artist:

All arts aim at producing beauty but their modes differ. An artist should

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Know the limitations of his medium. An art is designed to produce an effect. For example, a picture is made to be looked at, a poem is made to be read, and it is judged by the effect it produces. So it depends on the successful communication of the artist.

### Motive of the artist :

The motive of the artist may be many. i.e., lure of immortality, enduring fame, appeal to posterity etc. The motives vary from writer to writer. Richards says that, the mental process of the poet is very important, because a lot of creativity is unconscious..

He gives the example of Coleridge's Kubla Khan, and Milton's, Paradise Lost. Language is also important, as it allows the arts to be enjoyed and explained.

### Value and Communication

Richard says:-

"The arts are the store houses of recorded values"



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Arts are important in the theory of values. Arts record the most important values of experience. Without the help of arts no one cannot compare the value of two different experiences. The record of the subtle and obscure experiences has been called a seer. Arts thus provide the best data for comparing the values of experience.

### Conclusion:

Richard says that artist does communication unconsciously. Through arts values are communicated. So Richard writes:-

"The Arts if rightly approached, supply best data available for deciding what experiences are more valuable than others. The artist have come to achieve high position through the arts of communication."

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