ABSTRACT

Introduction

The present research is an attempt to analyze the selected novels of Mulk Raj Anand taking into consideration the Principles of Pragmatics in general and Observance and Violation of Cooperative and Politeness Principles in particular. The different layers of the socio-cultural dimensions which are operative in the novels *Untouchable* (1935), *Coolie* (1936), and *Two Leaves and a Bud* (1948) are worth studying with the help of pragmatics. The utterances of the characters in the fictional world of Anand are governed by the principles of conversations as determined by the social and cultural norms existing at the time when these novels were written. The characters are bound to use the language of their speech community. Mulk Raj Anand’s characters are down to earth and make use of linguistic expressions suitable to the social class or caste to which they belong. As the major characters undergo suffering and have no power at their disposal, they use submissive expressions. They adapt themselves to the demanding situations and try to adjust to the conversational partners in such a way that they come alive while speaking. The kind of language used by the characters in the novels is highly remarkable. The characters either observe the Principles of Cooperative and Polite use of language or violate the Maxims of Cooperative and Politeness Principles. The
principles of pragmatics are vitally important in the interpretation of fictional discourse.

The linguistic adaptation of the characters in the novels is governed by the social norms and cultural context. The class and caste factors in those days became so dominant that the upper class/caste people looked down upon the lower class/caste people leaving them at the mercy of their masters. Therefore, it is interesting as well as revealing to study the socio-cultural relations of the masters and their servants, landlords and the landless labours, caste Hindus and untouchables in the class and caste bound Hindu society in British India.

The thesis is divided into six chapters as follows:

**Chapter One: ‘Introduction’**. It contains the aims, objectives, hypothesis, rationale and significance of the study, making of the writer and methodology to be adopted for the analysis. The chapter initiates the research process laying stress on the vital components of the research. In fact, it introduces the writer and the process of how the present research would proceed.

**Chapter Two: ‘Theoretical Framework’**. This chapter highlights some of the significant terms, concepts, theories and principles in pragmatics. In the beginning of the chapter, an attempt has been made to examine and scrutinize the terms such as semantics and pragmatics, sentence and utterance, principles and rules. The middle portion of the chapter has been devoted to the speech act
theory, Principles of Cooperation and Politeness and their Maxims. The cooperative and polite use of language has been the focal point of the discussion. The face saving and face threatening strategies as advocated by Brown and Levinson have been discussed quoting the selected examples from ordinary conversations that take place in ordinary situations. This chapter lays the foundation on which the further chapters are based. Thus, the present chapter paves the way for application of the cooperative and politeness principles in the next chapter.

Chapter Three: ‘Observance and Violation of CP and PP in Untouchable.’ This chapter is devoted to the discussion on the novel Untouchable with respect to the observance and violation of Cooperative Principle and Politeness Principle. It is divided into two parts. In the first part, an attempt has been made to discuss the relevant examples of the observance of CP and PP. The socio-cultural aspects of Indian society in the colonial period have been taken into account while discussing the selected conversational pieces. Mulk Raj Anand, being the Gandhian follower, has highly criticized the caste/class system by portraying the character like Bakha. It has been observed that the low caste/class people are inclined to observe the principles of CP and PP, while in a conversation with the caste Hindus or the people from the upper rung of the socio-economic ladder. The caste/class factor makes it obligatory for the low caste/class people to observe the maxims of CP and PP to the maximum extent. While discussing the highly marked conversations of the characters, illocutionary forces have been considered. The interpersonal relations of the characters have
been also taken into account while discussing the linguistic exchanges of the characters in the respective novel.

In the second part of the chapter, an attempt has been made to discuss in detail the instances where and why the characters have violated certain Maxims of CP and PP. It has been discovered that the characters that are placed in a high social position are prone to violate certain Maxims of CP and PP for accomplishing their communicative goals. For achieving the conversational goals, people at the high position deliberately violate some of the maxims. Another observation is that the characters that come from the low caste/class are seen observing silence. They speak less when they come in contact of the high caste/class people. In addition to this point, one notices that the British characters use profane language to describe the characters that are placed in the low position. The colonizers’ attitude is reflected in their conversations. Sometimes, they are polite to low caste people only to get the things done. Thus, the chapter makes a significant contribution to the field if applied pragmatics.

Chapter Four: ‘Observance and Violation of CP and PP in Coolie.’ This chapter is divided into two parts. In the first part of the chapter, the researcher discusses the categorically selected conversational pieces from the novel Coolie in the light of the observance of the Maxims of Cooperative Principle and Politeness Principle respectively. It is noticed that the characters who are placed in the lower class of the society observe some of the maxims to achieve their communicative goals. In addition, the
servants are seen observing the maxims to please their masters. For, instance Munoo, a coolie, has to observe all the maxims to please his masters all the time. In the second part of the chapter, an effort has been made to discuss in detail the violation of the Maxims of Cooperative Principle and Politeness Principle respectively. The violation of the maxims is caused due to the uncooperative nature and impolite linguistic behavior of the characters. Another reason of violation of certain maxims is the spate of anger of some of the characters. In another words, the root cause of the violation of the certain maxims is that one of the conversational partners is angry and disturbed. Most of the characters that violate certain maxims are the persons in power or authority. Thus, the chapter makes a very significant contribution to the understanding of fictional discourse in the light of the Cooperative Principle advocated by H. P. Grice and Politeness Principle proposed by G. N. Leech. Understanding and interpretation of the novels in Indian English with the help of pragmatics is a novel way of exploring the language use made by the characters. In this way, one is able to establish the authenticity of the incidents, episodes, and the characters in Mulk Raj Anand’s novel Coolie with the help of the principles of communication in general and Cooperative Principle and Politeness Principle in particular.

Chapter Five: ‘Observance and Violation of CP and PP in Two Leaves and a Bud.’ The present chapter is divided into two parts. In the first part of the chapter, the researcher has discussed the categorically selected conversational pieces from the novel, Two
Leaves and a Bud with the help of the observance of the Maxims of Cooperative Principle and Politeness Principle. In the second part of the chapter, thorough discussion of violation of the Maxims of CP and PP is made. With the help of linguistic expression used by central characters, the pathos and the traumatic experiences are discussed in detail with the help of the linguistic expressions they use while in a conversation. The master-servant relations are also brought out via the use of language. Gangu, the protagonist of the novel and a tea-plantation worker, encounters several difficulties, which are explicitly described by the novelist. The language used by the writer is so powerful that the characters become vibrant and lively due to the use of Punjabi and Hindi expressions mixed with English.

Chapter Six is the Conclusion. This chapter is devoted to the main findings of the present study. It also includes the pedagogical implications of the study, the proven hypothesis and the scope for further research has been stated towards the end of the chapter.