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Ans to the qus no-1

A dramatic monologue is a long speech by a single person. It differs from soliloquy which means the expression of ideas by a character in a play. On the other hand, dramatic monologue is a kind of lyric which was used and improved by Robert Browning.

In a dramatic monologue, only one character speaks. The character tends to direct his emotions toward a listener who is either

inferred or existing. Revealing insight into the character, a dramatic monologue constitutes the entire poem. Usually taking on an assertive or argumentative tone, a dramatic monologue allows a listener to further delve into a character's emotions. As a reader of the dramatic monologue, you can openly interpret the character's words. Because the word usage is not strict and concrete, the reader becomes part of the creative process.

The dramatic monologue *My Last Duchess* is regarded as the best dramatic monologue in the whole range of English Literature. The speaker is the Duke of Ferrara, an important city and cultural centre of Italy. The spirit of the Renaissance, its intrigues, its sensuality, its greed and cultural qualities are presented in it. The dramatic monologue was used by Browning with amazing skill and success. Browning did not invent the

dramatic monologue but he made it especially his own, and no one else has ever put such rich and varied material into it.

In other words, he could dispense with all external machinery of action and plot, and concentrate his attention on the incidents in the development of a soul.

Unhampered by the limitations of the stage, he could now depict, 'the phenomena of the mind'. Browning made this from entirely his own, because it

suited his genius and also because it had a ~~wide~~ number of other advantages. It is an oblique or indirect mode of expression and so the poet could freely express his views without fear of hostile criticism. The views were expressed by other characters and so they could not be imputed to him. The Dramatic Monologue is, 'dramatic', because it is the utterance of imaginary characters and not of the poet himself, and because in it character is developed not

through any description on the part of the poet but through a conflict between the opposite thoughts and emotions of the character himself. It is a monologue because it is a conversation of a single individual with himself. The form is also referred to as monodrama. In each monologue, the speaker is placed in the most momentous or critical situation of his life, and the monologue embodies his reactions to this situation.

Unlike a dramatist, Browning does not begin slowly with an action leading to the crisis, rather he plunges headlong into the crisis.

Thus My Last Duchess opens with a reference to a picture of the dead Duchess, with clear indications that it is being shown to

someone. The speaker's thoughts range freely over the past and the future and so there is no logical and chronological development.

The past and the future are fused and focused on the present and the unity is emotional rather than logical.