

STUDY MATERIAL

Semester 4

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ULYSSESS & MY LAST DUCHESS

WHAT IS A DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE?

Monologue: lengthy speech from a single person

Dramatic monologue: A type of lyric poem preferred by poets one of whom was Robert Browning as evident in *My Last Duchess*, *The Bishop Orders His Tomb*, *Andrea del Sarto*.

Traits:

(a) single person (very clearly not the poet) uttering the entire poem in a specific situation at a critical moment

(b) the speaker interacts with one or more other people but the auditor's presence and what they say and do are only learnt from the clues in the discourse of the single speaker

© the main principle controlling the organization of the poetic discourse is to reveal to the readers the speaker's temperament and personality.

#Traits (a) and (c) distinguish a dramatic monologue from the dramatic lyric which is also a monologue uttered in an identifiable situation at a dramatic moment.

For instance, John Donne's *Canonization* lacks the trait ©. Wordsworth's *Tintern Abbey* lacks the traits (b) and (c).

#Tennyson's *Ulysses* and T.S.Eliot's *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* are two examples of dramatic monologue.

Now , try to critically comment on these traits as available in the two poems prescribed for you.