

**THE THEORY OF NAMING CANNOT HANDLE THE  
ENTIFICATION OF MEANINGS AS A LANGUAGE MEANS TO CREATE  
POLYPHONY IN ENGLISH LITERARY TEXTS (BASED ON THE  
NOVEL , THE REMAINS OF THE DAY, BY KAZUO ISHIGURO)**

We should begin by recognizing that the theory of naming is only one of the several theories which fails to show the entification of meanings ,simply as what is ‘stood for’ or referred to, as a language means to create polyphony in English literary texts, in our case on Kazuo Ishiguro’s novel, *The Remains of the Day*. From this comes the necessity of the recognition of lexical items, as opposed to grammatical items, since the translation of Plato’s onoma and rhema by nouns and verbs may be misleading.

One of the most striking examples of our practical work, on Kazuo Ishiguro’s novel, *The Remains of the Day*, is Mr. Stevens’s idea of the *great butler* as a butler that is “*possessed of a dignity in keeping with position*” and he believes dignity is something one can:

“meaningfully strive for throughout one’s career. It can be acquired by self training and careful absorption of experience”. (Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*, p.33)

Also, with a noun we may draw a picture of the object that is referred to (the referent). But, how should we indicate an adjective? According to the theory of naming, explained in Plato’s dialogue, the relations between words and their meaning are based on a natural affinity between word form and word meaning [37]. First, for the fifth-century Sophist grammar was not a part of philosophy. Protagoras about fifth century B.C, observed the nominal category of gender in Greek, which is associated with the class of noun (case, number, gender) and is reported to have wished *menis* ‘anger’ and *pelex* ‘helmet’ to be masculine instead of feminine [27]. Aristotle, while maintaining Plato’s view, added a third class of words *Syndesomi*:

this category includes all words that are not nouns or verbs [19]. It is well known that Al Farabi in some of his writings introduced a classification into more than three lexical categories but in his purely Aristotelian writings he followed the classical tradition, according to which Aristotle classified words into three categories [114].

What is noteworthy is the Stoics school of philosophy established by Zeno in 315 B.C. [79] and the Stoics philosophers whose philosophical school grew up in Athens after Aristotle, evolved the Aristotelian system of word classification and set up six classes of lexical categories [84]:

- 1- Noun
- 2- Pronoun
- 3- Preposition
- 4- Article
- 5- Conjunction
- 6- Adverb

Second, for supporting that the translation of Plato's onoma and rhema by noun and verbs may be misleading, we may say that the grammar of Thrax (c.100B.C.) was the most systematic grammatical description of the Greek language. "Thrax has defined eight parts of speech" [26, p.663]:

- 1- Noun
- 2- Verb
- 3- Pronoun
- 4- Preposition
- 5- Participle
- 6- Article
- 7- Conjunction
- 8- Adverb

As far as polyphony is concerned as a whole, one notices that the place of the entification of meanings in general, and of lexical items, as opposed to grammatical items in particular, should be cleared. Priscian (six century A.D.) described Latin and another fact that we know about Latin is that it changed. The great Vulgate was

largely literary work by St Jerome who declared that the translator's ideal is fidelity to the sense without undue adherence to the words as such [85]. "Priscian defined eight parts of speech" [120, p.247]:

- 1- Noun
- 2- Verb
- 3- Preposition
- 4- Participle
- 5- Pronoun
- 6- Interjection
- 7- Conjunction
- 8- Adverb

Third, the medieval scholars elaborated some features of the Latin language such as the distinction between nouns and adjectives [11]. As far as polyphony is concerned, "The Port-Royal grammarian made a genuine attempt to write a general or universal grammar. On the base of this general grammar the Port-Royal grammarian took the nine classical word classes" [73, p.35]:

- 1- Noun
- 2- Verb
- 3- Article
- 4- Pronoun
- 5- Preposition
- 6- Participle
- 7- Conjunction
- 8- Interjection
- 9- Adverb

According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, lexical items are words and phrases. It must be stressed, however, in A. Klinge's work, *Mastering English* (1998), a student's text book (though it is much more than that) lexical words are words which have complete meaning, in themselves.

This is an important argument because, as far as polyphony is concerned, lexical items, as opposed to grammatical items, are among the language means that are used to create polyphony in English literary texts, in our case on Kazuo Ishiguro's major novel, *The Remains of the Day*.

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