

COMMUNICATION MODELS AND KAKKARKALI DRAMA OF KANIKKARAR IN KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT

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Abstract :

Aristotle and Harold Lasswell were western philosophers has given the models of communication. Their models of communication is helped us to understand that how the communication is playing a crucial role in between human relations. We can understand the fact of human relations by knowing the **Kakkarkali drama** which was played by **Kanikkarar** men who were lived at Western Ghats of Kanniyakumari district before 30 years ago. It was a good communication tool to inculcate good human relations among them. To prove this concept, both the communication models have chosen for this research paper. Hypothesis of the paper is '**Kakkarkali drama was a good communication tool among Kanikkarar tribal**'. By proving this hypothesis, Aristotle and Lasswell's models of communication arehelped us to understand easier. Title of the paper is "**Communication models and Kakkarkali Drama of Kanikkarar in Kanniyakumari District**". This paper is analysing about the drama with aforementioned models of communication in the aspect of communication. Data collection is done by on the mode of interview only.

Introduction :

There were Western Philosophers like Aristotle, Harold Lasswell, Shanon and Veiwier, Osgood, Schramm and Berlo who have framed some models of communication. These models are helped us to understand that how the communication is playing a crucial role in between human relations. Each philosopherhas explained the human relation's communication in their point of view. Particularly this paper haschosen only the communication models of **Aristotle and Lasswell**to apply in the drama '**Kakkarkali**'of **Kanikkarar**tribal.

Aristotle model of communication :

Aristotle is a great Greek philosopher who invented the model of communication in 300 BC. It encompasses five key elements which are *Speaker, Speech, Occasion, Audience and Effect*.

He emphasized that speaker is an important person who should concentrate the needfulness of audience because it is speaker centred model. Also speaker speeches should be clear, easy to understand and stimulate the ideas of audiences in a particular occasion. Those determine the effect of communication which happens in between human relations he said.

Lasswell model of communication:

Harold Lasswell was an American political scientist and communications theorist. He describes an act of communication by defining *who said it, what was said, in what channel it was said, to whom it was said, and with what effect* it was said. This model developed in the year of 1948 while he was a professor at Yale Law School.

This research paper is used the aforementioned models of communication which are applied into the 'Kakkarkali' drama of **Kanikkarar** tribal in Kanniyakumari district.

Kanikkarar Tribal :

The Kanikkarars tribes living the southern part of Travancore are called by this term. The meaning of „*Kaanikkaran*” is “*hereditary proprietor of land*”. Like the way they recognised on their ancient rights over the forest land. They are sometimes called as „*Velanmar*”, „*Spearmen*” a cognomen the disclaimed. The Kaanikkarars are generally very short and some of them have Negroid features of appearances.

Kaanikkarar who performed some dramas like, „*Valli Thirumanam*”, „*Kovalan Kathai*”, „*Nallathangal*”, „*Korathikali*” and „*Kaakkarkali*”. Among these **Korathikali** is the play which is made by Kaanikkarar tribal represented that the life style of them performed many years ago and could not get more details on it because it does not exist. They learnt other drama from other community people whomever living near to them especially the plains area people. **Kaakkarkali** was a drama performed by kaanikkarar before 30 years. It is also called as **Kaakkaris** which was used to perform many people of south Kerala 50 years ago.

Researcher could collect the **Kakkarkali** manual script from **Asohan Kaani** who is living in **Pathukaani** settlement. It is mingled with both languages of Tamil and Malayalam which is collected in May 30, 2011. This drama have performed by 15 Kaanikkarar men who were lived in various **kaani** settlement. **Eswaran Kutty Kaani** was the person who learnt this drama from plains playwrights and he taught for Kaani tribal.

Story of Kakkarkali :

The drama 'Kakkarkali' starts from background voice of a person who tells that 'Dear audience, now you are going to watch a play about the happiness human relations in between plains area people and Kuravar community people which they had once upon a time'.

Scene 1:

Following that he welcomes the audiences and greet Eswaran Kutty Kaani who taught this drama by welcome song. After that 12 characters of artists will be appeared on stage with **Mangalam song** as greeting song for praising the lord together. This song will be both languages of Malayalam and Tamil represent lord of **Ganapathy**. Artists will exit the stage after the song.

Following that the greeting song of lord Shiva and Parvathi takes place when Shiva and Parvathi will be appeared on stage. Then Naradhar will appear the stage and talk with lord Shiva and Parvathi about people's life in this world and the scene will end.

Scene 2 :

Kaakkathi is the main female character in this play who belongs poor family background appears on stage. She will be humiliating by a landlord and his servant. She will sing a song when the servant asked regarding her place and from where she is? After singing tells that her village has become famine and there is no way to survive. So she needs to survive by getting any household works here would be better, she thought.

Scene 3 :

Two **kaakkathi** characters appears on stage with a **Kaakkan** character will dance and sing in front of Thamburan men character. Kaakkan knows the witchcraft work (catching snakes) to survive. While doing this work on stage one snake will bite him and he will be in unconscious. Then one physician asked to save the Kaakkan will be in alive after.

Scene 4 :

Two kaakkathies and kaakkan will be walking in forest. Kaakkan asked them to go out of this forest to save them. But they refused to go to their village and request to be with kaakkan. Kaakkan will disappear from the forest at once. His snakes will be around their legs and they will afraid and shout. There will be a hunter in forest who comes and kill the snakes. Also he expressed desire to marry them. They won't like to get marry and the hunter will be killed by them. On that time 7 thieves are coming to the stage and inspired a lot for those kaakaathies and expressed to get marry them. Kaakaathies disappears with angry. There will be one magician among those 7 thieves who asked to bring back the kaakaathies by his magical techniques. He will bring back the kaakaathies on stage again. Both Kaakkathies will accept to marry them because of fear. After that 7 thieves will fight with each other to marry those women. One policeman comes to stage and will know the situation what happens among 7 thieves and two kaakkaathies. He will punish the thieves and save both the women and will be in police station.

Kaakkan will come to the police station and tells about his wives to the policeman. Policeman will found the relationship between kaakkan and two kaakkathies and send them back to their village.

7 thieves found that kaakkaan only is Shivan and two women are as Parvathi and Ganga Devi. They worship Shivan, Parvathi and Gangadevi respectively. At the end of drama Mangalam song will use to finish the play.

Kakkarkali Drama and Aristotle, Lasswell's model of communication :

Kakkarkali was the play performed 30 years ago by Kaanikarar tribal. This paper have taken two communication models to understand the communication of Kaanikarar through their drama. Aristotle and Lasswell's key elements of communication are helping us to understand the communication of Kanikarars. We can understand the communication by analysing each character who involves in this play.

1. Speaker and Informer :

This play represents that the Speaker and Informer as whomever acting on the stage and off the stage. Each character of artist or performers is seeking like a good speaker and informer.

Artists (Characters)	No of Performers
Background voice actor	1
Kaakkaan (Shivan)	1
Kaakkaathies (Parvathi & Gangadevi)	2
Narathar	1
Servant	1
Landlord	1
Physician	1
Hunter	1
Thieves	7
Magician	1
Policeman	1
Total	18

The aforementioned details say that there are 18 characters of artists as performers. The performers are playing a vital role in this play as speakers of one of the key element of Aristotle and Lasswell's model of communication.

2. Speeches and Information :

It is very important to know that what kind of information passes by performers because speech is the second element of Aristotle and Lasswell's model of communication.

Background voice actor is a person who engages the stage well from beginning to end of the play. **Kaakkaan** is a person as **Lord Shivan** who appear wherever happens injustices among people by his incarnation. It represents that there will be someone in our life who behave against the injustices and save us. Both **Kaakkathies** Characters of artists are being as **Parvathi** and **Gangadevi** who suffers a lot because of men. It projects that how women are facing problems by men in our society will be punished by laws and ethics. People should know the knowledge about the world, the logical concept used by **Narathar** character in this play.

Landlord and his Servant characters are representing that once upon a time our society was as Lord slave society and how landlords oppressed those who are not having money and physical strength.

Earlier we have used more natural remedies only save the people from any kind of disease insisted by **Naturopath physician** character in drama. **Hunter** is the character inculcated us that someone can't live long in this society if they have unnecessary desire. **7 Thieves** characters represents that the people whomever living in the world should be honest with each other and should not harm the women are around us. Through the **Policeman** character we can know the good character that saves people from tedious situation.

All the above characters are communicating good and bad habits of people and their lifestyle. This information process happened through **Kaakkarkali** drama had performed by **Kanikkarar** tribal.

3. Channel of Communication :

Channel is the third key element of Lasswell's model of communication.

Here we have to know the channel of the drama. There are channels in this play like **place of performance, stage platform, lighting, screen settings, costumes, percussion instruments, speech, songs, dances and body languages.**

A triangle shape of place is a channel will be chosen and cleaned by using '**Mongan**' tool for making the stage as plain area. After that they arrange the place by dung coating. This place is called in Tamil as '**Kalam**'. Another place will be arranged for audience in front of Kalam as in the shape of square. Four pillars will be used in four corners of audience's place.

Platform is the next channel for performing drama will be closed by coconut leaves on up and three sides of Kalam and a screen will be used in front of the stage. Kanikkarar men will decorate the stage platform with designed shape of god, toys, coding formats and shape of arrow and bow by making coconut cartilage.

Lighting is one of the channel will be used to communicate with people through this play. Three corners of stage platform and four corners of audience's sitting place are used to put Oregon lamp. People can understand that the play is going to be start now when the lamp is lightning.

Screen setting is also one of the channels which will be used front and backside of stage. Front side screen will be in plain design and the backside will be designed as palace. These screens are used while playing the drama to change the next scene.

Costumes and Makeup will be used as channel by each character of Kaakkaarkali play. Both Kaakkathies will tie up the hair in left side of head and used a big round sticker on forehead.

Musical instruments like Mathalam, Singi are used to communicate in this play while changing the scenes. Also it will play whenever the songs used to sing by particular characters.

4. Audience :

The fourth key element of Aristotle is **Audience**. Those who are getting the information from the informers or performers are called as audience. There will be different kind of audience who gets information of good and bad habits of human through the play.

5. Effect :

Information comes from various kinds of informers or speakers. Performers

are informers in this play who share the information to audience. Whether the information reaches properly to the audience or not is important is called as **Effect**. It is the final key element of Lasswell's model of communication which is analysed in this paper. Audience can change their mind set from bad to good habit after watching the drama Kaakkaarkali because it tells the human attitude, opinion and their behaviour everything.

Conclusion :

- ❖ *Kakkarkali* drama does not exist now but researcher could collect it's manual script from Asohankani from pathukani settlement. Eechukuttikani and his team was the last generation who performed this play before 30 years ago.
- ❖ *Kakkarkali* play has applied on Aristotle and Lasswell's models of communication in this paper. Their key elements of *Speaker, Speech, Occasion, Channel, Audience and Effect* are helped us to understand that Kakkarkali drama was a good communication tool among *Kanikkarakar*tribal.

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