

A Lexeme is that fundamental form of a word in which it appears in a dictionary and works as the source of other forms of this word. For example, the word 'play' is a lexeme ~~to whom~~ which its inflected forms like plays, played, playing are obtained. The inflectional range of the word 'play' in verbal forms includes play, plays, played, playing and so ~~on~~. The word play is lexeme that is realized in these many inflected forms in different contexts. Likewise, the words player, players, player's, players' represent the inflectional paradigm of the lexeme 'player'. The word 'player' can not be accommodated in the inflectional paradigm of the lexeme 'play' because of its reference to a different meaning along with difference in grammatical category and place in dictionary. Apart from this, the lexeme 'player' has its own inflectional paradigm. A lexeme, thus, may be treated as an abstract entity which is orthographically or phonologically manifested through the different word forms of its inflectional paradigm as shown above in the examples. On the basis of this explanation of lexeme, it can be said that all lexemes are words but not all words are lexemes.

Critical Appreciation

The Basement Room is a nice psychological story which depicts the psychology of a child. Master Philip had been left alone by his parents. His parents have gone on a fortnightly holiday but that is not all about the child. He is between two nannies - the one dismissed and the other not yet arrived. So he is forced to face an unpleasant situation.

He listened to the whizzing car till it died out into the distant street. The child's mind begins to work in a new direction. A sense of freedom dawns upon him. He thinks that he is his own master. His whole personality that was expressed under parental control gradually emerged out. He craves to develop intimacy with the world outside his home. He is excited to peep into outside world. This bubbling spirit of the child is quite charming. There is Mrs. Baines who is domineering, nasty and unpleasant. She wants him to do what she orders. It creates an atmosphere of tussel. The boy wants complete freedom but Mrs. Baines had quite a different view. She would not let him do what he liked because she was the self-appointed guardian of the boy. She took her charge rather quite seriously.

Philip, however, had one great solace. Mr. Baines was quite intimate and friendly with him. But there was lack of harmony between Mr. and Mrs. Baines. Mr. Baines entrusted Philip with a secret. He didn't like Philip to tell Mrs. Baines that his niece had ever entered their roof.

The most Psychological picture of the child emerges in the latter part of the story. Philip was a spirited child, and wanted to see the outside world. Mrs. Baines was poor and helpless. She plotted to go away to see her ailing mother. She wanted Philip to tell her as to where they were. But he would not. Too true, he was determined to keep Mr. Baines's secret. Mrs. Baines, however, guessed their whereabouts. She almost poisoned on them and met a fatal accident. Getting opportunity, Philip ran away. He was anxious to be noticed. But when he had gone far away, he felt lonely and deserted. He was now anxious to be noticed. He wanted police to escort him back home. He was scared away by Mrs. Baines.

Thus, The Basement Room has a remarkable theme to present. The mind of the child is portrayed in all its details. Philip's mind is a brilliant example of the complexes found in a child's mind. But apart from the main interest of theme, the side interests are equally absorbing. While appreciating the absorbing interest of the story, two worlds are set in contrast — the world of the children and the world of the elderly people. The author has a forceful style. Each of the characters is a rounded whole full of absorbing interest.

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