



Linguistic Study of 'Okey', 'Yes' and 'No'

Dr. Umesh B. Bansod

Associate Professor,
Department of English,
J.M. Patel College, Bhandara [M.S.]
umeshbansod526@gmail.com
Cell 9860156526

Abstract :

Words are not mere words. They turn into weapons and can cause destructions. Use of inappropriate words by Draupadi humiliating Duryodhana became the reason of Mahabharata. Therefore, Word is not mere construction of vowels and consonants. They have lexical meanings as well as grammatical meanings. Words are pregnant and capable to give birth to several meanings. Words are not barren. 'Cut' has 156 meanings in English. Empty words have little or no intrinsic meaning. Some words have lexical meaning and may not have grammatical function. But these words also are attached with some social, political, cultural meanings as well. In a democratic country like India, where misuse or inappropriate use of words can create havoc, there is a need to choose appropriate words and use them consciously. As ignorance is no excuse in law, so is the case of ignorance of meaning and sense of words. It is the responsibility of giver and taker, speaker and listener, Deliverer and recipient to understand the words while using them.

Key Words: *Lexical, grammatical meaning, intrinsic*

Introduction:

Is there anything like thinking seriously about words? As a student of language or as a teacher of language or as a worshiper of 'words', the answer is 'Yes'. There is a point to say that 'Okey Sir, Yes Sir and No sir are selectively chosen for the study in this paper. It is not mere the purpose to investigate lexical or grammatical meanings of these words but also to discuss 'cause and effect' of these words. There is a need to study find the psychosocial influence established by these words. It is necessary to follow sociolects of these words when they are used by the authority or by a certain class in the administrative hierarchy or in the hierarchy of academic administration.

Democracy means the rule of people but in practice the term cannot be proved in to-to. Democracy philosophically is the rule of people with few or many restrictions (say in the interest of nation) or somewhere complete restrictions. So while working in certain administration under somebody as an employee we find democracy in books only. The present scenario shows that democratic nations are leading towards



autocracy. It is unfortunate that this autocracy has trickled down in lanes of administration everywhere at all levels.

Okey Sir, Yes Sir and No sir, have their own importance in the democratic framework. Before discussing it is important to discuss here the code of ethics provided by the UGC in her regulations of July 2018 in the part three of the section-4 in the clause 17.0. UGC laid down certain obligations upon all, coming under its jurisdiction to see that there is no incompatibility between the precepts and practice. In the clause 17 (IV) the UGC writes for teachers “Treat other members of the profession (colleague) in the same manner as they themselves wish to be treated. In the same clause UGC further states for the Principal “Act as steward of the College’s assets in managing the resources responsibility, optimally, effectively and efficiently for providing a conducive working and learning environment;(d) Promote the collaborative, shared and consultative work culture in the college, paving way for innovative thinking and ideas;” Now in the light of these provisions or guidelines the assessment of ‘Okey Sir, Yes Sir and No sir’ is necessary. Let us try to understand different layers of these words.

‘Okey’ Sir: OK, Okay

Dictionary Meaning: All right, satisfactory or satisfactorily.

It is categorized as adjective or adverb.

Okay: means **all** right; yes (i.e. is that agreed)

It is categorized as interjection.

Okay: means agreement; permission.

It is categorized as Noun.

Okey is also used as slang. Slangs are the use of words and expression that are not considered standard in the speaker’s dialect or language. Such slangs are found in the areas of the lexicon that refer to things considered taboo. (Taboo describes an activity or behavior that is considered completely unacceptable or forbidden.) It is taboo term in ordinary discourse with people of a higher social status or greater responsibility. Ohkay is oh ,okey as a reaction to someone’s statement .Okie also meaning Okay. Okie day is a replacement for Okay when an emphasis of joy or happiness is appropriate.

The gist of this discussion shows that Okey is a taboo, slang, use of which is considered lower by the people of a higher social status or greater responsibility. (The higher and lower status ,Superiority and inferiority is also a debatable topic in the 21st century) The further discussion will also help us to know how far have we moved from the medieval ages .)



‘Yes’ Sir :

This is the word that authority always wants the hear and employee hesitate to utter. It is used to answer in the affirmative. It is also use to show emphatic, forcefulness and absoluteness. (Which is universally valid) ‘Yes’ is used to show that a statement is correct or that the person responding agrees and has nothing to say. It also indicates acceptance or offer. It is also used to acknowledge one’s presence in a group or to reply when one is called. ‘Yes’ is also used to agree with a request. When ‘Yes’ this word is used by man, he is called ‘Yes-Man’ which means a weak person who always agrees with his superior (s) in order to win a favour or approval.

The multiple layers of the meanings of ‘Yes’ indicate many things and we shall compare them in conclusion.

‘No’ Sir :

This is the word of negation that everybody wants to say and nobody wants to hear. ‘No’ means not any , not one . It is used to indicate that something is not allowed. It is used to express exact opposite of what is said. ‘No’ is used as interjection and negative adverb as well. It is used before comparative adjectives and adverbs.

Conclusion :

Reader must be waiting for the conclusion. ‘Yes’ or ‘no’ are not mere words. They also indicate attitudes. ‘Yes Sir’ may be a very honourable word in the military discipline but the recent judgments by the apex court also makes it clear that it can not be used for discrimination and behavior against the constitutional provision of equality. ‘Yes’ now days is being used to indicate ‘absence of ‘No’. Is it expected in democracy that there should be no ‘No’. ‘Yes’ is indication of following everything blindly without questioning. ‘Yes’ does not allow the right to say ‘No’. It is the fact that they who dare to say ‘No’ have to suffer a lot either by the government or by the administrator. They who dared to vary or to have different opinion or shown enough courage to say ‘No’ are behind the bars waiting for either bail or trial. For this different of openion people even had to sacrifice their life. Socrates,Tukaram, Bahgatsingh, Sukhdev, Rajguru, Dabholakr, Pansare ,Gauri Lankesh.. list is endless ,had to pay price for their ‘No’. The word ‘No’ is not given in charity nor in beggar’s pot . It is achieved by great efforts.

It should be noted that ‘Yes’ becomes democratic when ‘No’ is also allowed. The absence of ‘No’ is nothing but dictatorship. And dictatorship must be condemned in its any form so that democracy will sustain. Nehru had differences with Dr.B.R.Ambedkar, but even then also Nehru accepted Dr.Ambedkar is the first government of India as Law Minister. Shyma Prasad Mukhrajee (Founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangha) also served as the Ministry for Industry and Supply in the Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru’s cabinet, though they had difference of opinions. Monamohan Singh



as the prime minister sent Atal Bihari Vajpayee in UN assembly to put India's stand. This is the healthy tradition of difference of opinion.

'Yes' must be used for the all round development of the nation and institution but not at the cost of 'No'. 'Okey' indicates superiority and inferiorly complexes. 'Yes' shows the arrogance of dictatorial attitude and rejects opinions whereas 'No' is the right to have ones opinion may be different the others.

'Yes Sir' culture is against the UGC norm of Promoting the collaborative, shared and consultative work culture in the college.

Use of 'Okey' brings all on similar platform but it may hurt superior authority who are still in the bourgeois mentality which the mentality of capitalist ruling class that exploits the working class. It is ridiculous that 'Yes Sir' by the employee is responded 'Okey' by the employer.

Better say 'Yes Sir' to enjoy all facilities and all favours and benefits (whether deserving or undeserving is not important here)

Amitabh Bachchan in the famous movie "Pink" says that 'No' is not mere a word. It is a complete sentences in itself. It needs no logic, explanation nor any definition. No mean 'no' only." And administrators must realize that 'No' also exist there' and it must be respected or at least must be heard. People do not want to create scenes and therefore remain mum and administrator believes that nobody has to say anything. If you dare to say 'No' remain ready for transfer, demotion, suspension or day to day humiliations. Ultimately choice is yours.

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