

Table of Contents

1. Introduction to Broken Images
2. Character Sketch of Manjula Nayak
3. Themes in Broken Images
4. Literary Devices in Broken Images
5. Important Quotes from Broken Images
6. Practice Exercises on Broken Images

Introduction to Broken Images

Broken Images is a play written by Girish Karnad, a renowned contemporary Indian playwright, actor, and film director born in 1938. Karnad is known for his works in Kannada and English, often using history and mythology to address contemporary issues. This play explores themes of personal and academic values, bilingualism, and the complexities of identity in modern India.

The play is set in a television studio and features Manjula Nayak, a Kannada writer who has recently gained international fame by writing a bestselling novel in English. The play uses the device of a television monologue that turns dialogic through the interaction between Manjula and her electronic image, highlighting the tensions between public persona and private self.

Key Elements

- **Author:** Girish Karnad
- **Setting:** Television studio
- **Main Character:** Manjula Nayak
- **Theme:** Bilingualism, identity, cultural conflict, personal vs public life

- **Literary Device:** Use of an electronic image to create a dialogic monologue

Textual Evidence

Manjula's speech about writing in English and the accusations she faces illustrates the central conflict: "I wrote the novel in English because it burst out in English. It surprised even me."

Practice Set

1. Why does Manjula Nayak choose to write in English despite being a Kannada writer?
2. Describe the setting of the play and its significance.
3. Explain the role of the electronic image in the play.

Answer Key

1. Manjula writes in English because the story came to her in that language naturally, not as a conscious betrayal of Kannada.
2. The play is set in a modern television studio, symbolizing the intersection of media, identity, and public scrutiny.
3. The electronic image acts as a mirror and a critic, turning the monologue into a dialogue and exposing Manjula's inner conflicts.

Quick Reference

- Author: Girish Karnad
- Main Character: Manjula Nayak
- Theme: Bilingualism and identity
- Setting: Television studio

Glossary

- **Bilingualism:** The ability to use two languages fluently.
- **Monologue:** A long speech by one character.
- **Dialogic:** Involving dialogue or conversation.
- **Electronic Image:** A digital representation of a person used in the play to create interaction.

Character Sketch of Manjula Nayak

Manjula Nayak is the protagonist of the play. She is a Kannada writer who unexpectedly writes a bestselling novel in English, which brings her fame and controversy. She is confident, articulate, and struggles with the accusations of betraying her mother tongue. Manjula is also deeply emotional, especially in her relationship with her disabled sister Malini, who inspired her novel.

Key Traits

- Confident and poised television presenter
- Creative and bilingual writer
- Emotionally connected to her sister Malini
- Defensive about her choice to write in English
- Reflective and self-critical

Textual Evidence

Manjula says, "I have committed the cardinal sin of writing in English," showing her awareness of the controversy.

Practice Set

1. Describe Manjula's attitude towards writing in English.
2. How does Manjula's relationship with her sister influence her writing?
3. What does Manjula reveal about her personal life during the play?

Answer Key

1. She is unapologetic but aware of the criticism she faces for writing in English.
2. Her sister Malini's life and struggles deeply inspire the emotional core of her novel.
3. Manjula shares her family background, her marriage, and her emotional struggles.

Quick Reference

- Protagonist: Manjula Nayak
- Relationship: Sister Malini
- Conflict: Writing in English vs Kannada identity

Glossary

- **Cardinal Sin:** A serious mistake or offense.
- **Unapologetic:** Not expressing regret or apology.

Themes in Broken Images

The play explores several important themes relevant to contemporary Indian society and literature.

Major Themes

- **Bilingualism and Language Politics:** The conflict between writing in English and regional languages, and the cultural implications of language choice.
- **Identity and Self-Expression:** The struggle of a writer to express her true self amidst societal expectations.
- **Family and Loyalty:** The emotional bond between Manjula and her disabled sister Malini.

- **Public vs Private Life:** The contrast between Manjula's public persona and her private emotions.
- **Commercialization of Art:** The role of money and fame in literary success and criticism.

Textual Evidence

The Announcer's introduction highlights the tension: "Many of you will know her as a renowned Kannada short-story writer... but last year Mrs Nayak stunned the world by writing a novel in English!"

Practice Set

1. Discuss the theme of bilingualism as presented in the play.
2. How does the play portray the conflict between personal loyalty and public image?
3. Explain the role of commercialization in the play.

Answer Key

1. The play shows bilingualism as a complex issue involving identity, acceptance, and cultural pride.
2. Manjula's loyalty to her sister contrasts with the public's focus on her fame and language choice.
3. Money and fame are shown as both enabling and complicating the writer's life.

Quick Reference

- Bilingualism
- Identity
- Family Loyalty
- Public vs Private
- Commercialization

Glossary

- **Commercialization:** The process of managing or running something principally for financial gain.
- **Persona:** The aspect of someone's character that is presented to or perceived by others.

Literary Devices in Broken Images

The play employs several literary devices to enhance its themes and dramatic effect.

Key Devices

- **Monologue and Dialogic Monologue:** The play starts as a monologue but becomes dialogic through the interaction with the electronic image.
- **Symbolism:** The electronic image symbolizes the dual identity and internal conflict of the protagonist.
- **Irony:** The accusations against Manjula for writing in English contrast with her genuine expression and success.
- **Satire:** The play satirizes the literary and cultural politics surrounding language and identity.

Examples

The electronic image challenges Manjula, saying, "You have managed to upset a lot of people," highlighting the social tensions.

Practice Set

1. Identify the role of the electronic image as a literary device.
2. Explain how irony is used in the play.

3. Discuss the use of satire in the play.

Answer Key

1. The electronic image acts as a mirror and a critic, making the monologue interactive and revealing inner conflicts.
2. Irony is present in the contrast between Manjula's honest writing and the accusations of betrayal.
3. Satire is used to critique the cultural and literary establishment's attitudes towards language and success.

Quick Reference

- Monologue
- Dialogic Monologue
- Symbolism
- Irony
- Satire

Glossary

- **Monologue:** A speech by one character.
- **Dialogic:** Involving dialogue or conversation.
- **Symbolism:** Use of symbols to represent ideas.
- **Irony:** A contrast between expectation and reality.
- **Satire:** Use of humor or exaggeration to criticize.

Important Quotes from Broken Images

Key quotes from the play help understand its themes and character motivations.

- "I wrote the novel in English because it burst out in English. It surprised even me."

- "I have committed the cardinal sin of writing in English."
- "A response is good. But a meaningful response is better."
- "The advance I received for my novel helped me resign my job and concentrate on writing."
- "She was the apple of their eye."

Explanation of Key Lines

The line about writing in English reveals the natural flow of creativity beyond language politics. The "cardinal sin" quote shows the societal pressure on language choice. The proverb about response and meaning highlights the tension between recognition and true value.

Practice Set

1. Explain the significance of the quote: "I wrote the novel in English because it burst out in English."
2. What does Manjula mean by "cardinal sin" in the context of the play?
3. Discuss the meaning of the proverb "A response is good. But a meaningful response is better."

Answer Key

1. It signifies that the language choice was spontaneous and authentic, not a betrayal.
2. It refers to the criticism Manjula faces for writing in English instead of Kannada.
3. The proverb contrasts superficial recognition with deep, meaningful appreciation.

Quick Reference

- Language and creativity
- Societal pressure
- Meaningful recognition

Glossary

- **Proverb:** A short, commonly known saying that expresses a truth.
- **Creativity:** The use of imagination to produce original work.

Practice Exercises on Broken Images

Level 1 - Easy

1. Who is the author of Broken Images?
2. What language did Manjula write her bestselling novel in?
3. Where is the play set?

Level 2 - Moderate

1. Explain the conflict Manjula faces regarding language choice.
2. Describe the relationship between Manjula and her sister Malini.
3. What role does the electronic image play in the play?

Level 3 - Challenging

1. Discuss how the play addresses the politics of language in Indian literature.
2. Analyze the use of satire and irony in the play.
3. Evaluate Manjula's character as a representation of bilingual identity.

Answer Key

1. Girish Karnad is the author.
2. Manjula wrote her novel in English.
3. The play is set in a television studio.

4. Manjula struggles with accusations of betraying Kannada by writing in English.
5. Manjula's sister Malini is disabled and deeply influences her writing and emotional life.
6. The electronic image acts as a critical mirror, turning the monologue into a dialogue.
7. The play critiques language politics through satire and irony, highlighting cultural tensions.
8. Manjula embodies the complexities of bilingual identity and cultural negotiation.

Quick Reference

- Author: Girish Karnad
- Setting: Television studio
- Main Character: Manjula Nayak
- Themes: Bilingualism, identity, family

Glossary

- **Satire:** Criticism through humor or exaggeration.
- **Irony:** A contrast between expectation and reality.
- **Bilingual Identity:** The state of belonging to two language cultures.