

Attempt a character sketch of Mrs. Malaprop.

Introduction — Mrs. Malaprop has become an immortal character and has given a very significant word to literature 'Malapropism'. It is a compound word derived from three French words 'Mal A propos' which means something out of order. It is defined as judicious measure of word. Mrs. Malaprop is a unique creation of Sheridan. She occupies a prominent position in the portrait gallery of comic characters in the world of literature. She is a monumental illustration of Sheridan's highly bloomed artificial humour as

displayed in her distinct for a nice dearrangement of epithets. She is a type having no destiny wished quality and feature except that she is efficient in the most improver use of words.

Mrs. Malaprop is made more ridiculous by her love affairs. There appears to be no cause for humiliation. In fact, she is a foolish vain woman and her exposure is partially deserved. Many things and incidents happen her very nose which she can't see.

If she sees them, she can't diagnose correctly. Her violent outrages on language are extremely diverting. She persists among a host of dramatic predecessors and imitator she is the unrivalled 'queen of dictionary'.

Her self conceit, egotism, vanity, consciousness of superior knowledge caluquacity arise out of what she considers use of learned words. Her frantic attempts at husband hunting make her an unforgettable character.

It is perceived that Sheridan riches the climax of farcial exaggeration in delineating her character which also ~~marks~~ marks the triumph of effective dramatic art.

Her other salient features —

Mrs. Malaprop is a caricature, grotesque, addity and embodiment of stupendous fatuity. She has a significant roles in 'The Rivals' Although she isn't the heroine of the play, she arrests our attention and evokes more interest than any other character in the drama. Her opinion on female education is the characteristics of the tendency of the age of Johnson and Sheridan. There is the demonstration of unconscious irony

in her opinion. The language used by her gives us a good indication of kind of education. She herself has received and of her pretension to use learned classical words. She says to Absolute, "Sure, if I apprehend anything in this word, in the use of my oracular tongue and a nice dearrangement of epithets."

She has a great stage part and is always presented is dramatic contrast with other persons, who comment on her absurdity, ridiculous, vanity and her dull chat with hard words which she doesn't understand. Absolute refers to Mrs. Malaprop in his letters to Mrs. Lydia. "She is so muddle headed, vain, egotistical and so lacking in a sense of humour that she hasn't the wit to understand, the mock compliments of Sir Anthony or Captain Absolute or Sir Lucius?"

Her Mistakes — The mistake of Mrs. Malaprop in eloquence are many and varied. She speak 'progeny' for 'prodigy', locanically, for ironically, commotion for emotion superstitious for superfluous. She utters stimulation for dissimulation, Malerolence, for benevolence and clearrangement for arrangement.

Mrs. Malaprop remarks about the words Reverely in the letter, which she intercepts by bribing Lucy are also farcial one can help Mrs. Malaprop described as the old weather beaten, she dragon and as one decking her dull chat with hard words which she doesn't understand.