

OF IRRELEVANCE

Dibakar Pal

Department of Business Management, University of Calcutta, India

Irrelevance means not connected with something in question. It is not relevant or not pertinent or not to the point or not relating to the concerned subject. Thus a thing that does not readily apply to a matter in hand is irrelevant. Relevance is the outcome of logical argument. Illogical argument is alias and akin to irrelevance. What a fool or a tired brain speaks is immaterial and unnecessary as well. A good student knows what to write. But the best student knows what not to write. Thus tact of omission saves a judicious soul from irrelevance.

In literature there are texts, summary and précis. The text or story contains the whole episode of the entire plot and character in detail. Summary squeezes the total matter and highlights the entire fact in retail. Précis precise the whole matter in a nut shell. It is the extract of the entire fact and contains only the specific and relevant points. So, both texts and summary are pregnant with digression and thereby is the store house of irrelevant matter. Thus irrelevance means superfluous or not required. But in reality irrelevance exists everywhere. It takes time; it wastes valuable time of human life, from cradle to grave, through its omnipresence. Sincere survey reveals that the entire agenda of human life is full of irrelevant works. Relevant study of irrelevancy reveals that man is sadly interested and thereby badly busy with irrelevant matters. It is just like addiction. So, human soul cannot be detached from those businesses that return nothing. In fact, most part of entire life, man is busy for nothing. He hankers after to fulfill his own interest.

Decision regarding judicious investment of both time and money is very difficult. Very few people can do it perfectly. As such, nothingness becomes the output. Thus man is busy having no relevant return at all. This very truth is realized by man only when his death is imminent and knocks at his door. Alas! he is too late then. Man cannot free himself from the clutches of irrelevant matters, since he speaks much, thinks much and does much irrelevant works. His emotion is so uncontrollable. The funny thing is that his net outcome is very little in comparison his gross works. And most part of his gross work is irrelevant. Irrelevance should be just like pickles that cannot be taken to fill up the stomach but it tastes tasty in full stomach and it helps the stomach to digest its contents. If anybody takes much pickle in empty stomach he will suffer from stomachache. So care should be taken so that irrelevant matter does not cross its limit. Its presence is required, like pickle, but that must be timely, proper and proportionate as well. In a tragedy comic gives relief to the spectators. But the whole tragedy should not be replaced by comic itself, as is usually happens in case of parasite. A tree gives shelter to the parasite. In course of time his parasite becomes the cause of death of the tree itself. Yet the tree welcomes parasite to stay together and live together. This is the destiny and tragedy of giving shelter. Theme is always short. Explanation renders it voluminous. To explain any matter the author becomes so emotional that many times he loses brake. As a result irrelevant topics get entry into the main stream. If the author does not control this flood gate then his whole plan will be frustrated due to digression. Because, in such a condition less important plots get priority and main plot is cornered. It is just like ill weeds grow apace.

A farmer knows it. So he removes the weeds from his farm house so that the growths of main trees are not hampered. Similarly, only an expert author can control his emotion and proceed with the central theme with his protagonist. But a novice author fails successfully. So he becomes the prey of irrelevancy thereby digression. As a result he is badly criticized by the merciless critics and thereby sadly hurt.

When an author starts to write something, infinite numbers of themes like ceaseless waves of sea flash in his mind's easel. He becomes perplexed and faces many hurdles to choose and pick up the right and relevant shell of the sea. Here needs expertise. A good writer knows what to write. But a great writer

knows what not to write. Tact of omission is an important factor. It is really an art. Very few authors know this tactics. So the outcome of a novice writer does suffer from irrelevant matters. This digression is very dangerous and dilutes the central theme of the plot in general. For this event an author cannot be held responsible. Literature is a store-house of contemporary social document. It is not science. Science is guided by formula. But literature reflects and manifests the motion of romantic souls. Emotion has no base and no brake as well. It moves anywhere like a bird that flies in any direction of the unobstructed sky. Further, emotion is violent in nature too. For, it does not obey any rule rather it breaks the established rules. It breaks all barriers and crosses all boundaries.

In any lunch or dinner, generally, protein is always less but the dish contains full of carbohydrates. This huge unwanted foodstuff damages the general health and causes disease. So the doctor advises the patient to take balanced diet instead of unnecessary foods. Irrelevance talk is equivalent to rubbish. Gossiping is the store house of such garbage. In gossiping mood man can say anything without any hesitation. He speaks and gets relief through catharsis. Here attention is not required. Attention paves the way for in depth analysis which is against the atmosphere of any gossiping environment. For serious discussion academic institutions are appropriate place. But no body goes to a club or coffee house to enrich knowledge. The visitors go there for relaxation to revitalize the tired nerves. The visitors hail from all walks of life. So, general discussion, having no expert knowledge, is appropriate, so that all can participate in the discussion and enjoy well. Also participation of all renders the debate and discussion enjoyable more. Here enjoyment is the prime factor not to show geniusness. To show expertise there is appropriate place. Those who are interested to expose themselves they are well advised to go there not to join this baseless and brakeless discussion full of casual talks.

For mere enjoyment, superficial knowledge is sufficient. With incomplete knowledge a person dares to talk on quantum mechanics in the morning and on quality control in the evening of that very day. Such a half genius can give extempore speech on any topic promptly, smartly and untiringly as well. Expert knowledge renders a gossip into academic discussion in which all cannot take part. As a result discussion ends very shortly. Here, half genius is the right person to convene, conduct and continue enjoyable discussion.

Short speech contains little lies. Long speech contains much lies. For, he who speaks more, speaks more lies. Lies and irrelevant talks are akin, since both waste time and complicate life as well. Long discussion means long irrelevance. In brief history, irrelevance finds no shelter. Though irrelevance is unwanted, yet any discussion or talk suffers from irrelevant points. The probable reason, it seems, irrelevance is the spontaneous talk. Man does not get chance to speak. Everywhere he faces restrictions. So whenever he gets chance he speaks everything caring whether it is relevant or irrelevant it matters little. As a result in his quite unaware the relevant or main topic is burdened with heaps of huge rubbish. Thus irrelevance is the outcome of suppression. A hungry person or animal devours whatever he gets. Similar is the case of irrelevance. Relevance needs attention. Machine is guided by motion. Motion can offer attention, which emotion cannot. Man is guided by emotion. So machine can perform any job untiringly with perfect attention which man cannot do at all. Also machine can perform any repetitive job with expertise. But man either feels bored or is angry when he is asked to repeat anything. He cannot work at a stretch. He needs rest. To him variety is the spice of life. He crazily wants to add spice in life. So he searches for diversion. This search for diversion paves the entry for digression. In fact attention causes pain. Attention is akin to pain. Very few persons can bear or tolerate that pain. Only wise persons can bear it. This answers why we see very few wise persons around us who can speak with relevance for long.

Both relevant and irrelevant talks offer enjoyment. Relevant discussion, as already discussed, needs attention. But irrelevant discussion needs no brain. It is just free enjoyment like fresh and free air. It costs nothing but cures mind free of cost. Free service or free enjoyment is warmer than paid enjoyment. So, irrelevant discussion is more enjoyable than relevant opinion that needs higher attention with expertise knowledge. In any examination, a problem namely 'odd man out' is given to the examinee to test general intelligence. Here the question offers various options. Only the odd man to be identified, considering it as irrelevant or inappropriate in the present context in question. Here expertise is required to identify the odd man since all the alternatives are equally likely. Only an expert can identify the irrelevant matter at ease. Also an expert seldom adds irrelevant theme in any contribution. Since, expert is numbered there is none to out the odd man. As such the world is infested with so irrelevant things and thereby does suffer from irrelevancy.