**INFO SHEET #3: STRUCTURALIST APPROACH**

**MELC:** Compose an independent critique of a chosen selection.

**Objectives:**

At the end of the lesson, the learners are expected to:

1. identify the distinct features of Structuralist Approach;

2. apply Structuralist Approach in studying the literary piece; and

3. compose an independent critique of a chosen literary selection.

**Key Information**

**Structuralist**

* Is a method of interpreting and analyzing a literary piece that focuses on contrasting ideas and how they relate to whole structure. The approach treats the text as linguistic construct.
* In structuralism, a piece is open to interpretation, it depends on how the reader views the meaning of the text based on his/her understanding which may involve personal belief, behavior, or moral perception.

Example:  
Jack and Jill went up the hill  
To fetch a pail of water.  
Jack fell down and broke his crown  
And Jill came tumbling after.  
  
Possible interpretation using Structuralist Approach.  
1. We should be careful in all our actions or else we can drag others down with us.  
2. Jack’s crown may symbolize authority. So, we can apply this to governance. If the ruler fails, It affects the people.

* Structuralists believe that to fully understand a concept or idea one must look on its underlying elements and structures and see the common patterns involved.

**Receiving Stage –** refers to actual hearing process. In here, the listener has to check him/herself if he/she is able to hear clearly the sounds and other sound points.

**Understanding Stage** – focuses on generating meaning on what has been heard. In here, the connection on communication between the listener and the speaker must be clearly established. This constitutes the idea that the understanding of the speaker must be the same with the listener.

References:

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Morley, Catherine (n.d.). Listening: Top down and bottom up. Retrieved December 2, 2020, from https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/listening-top-down-bottom

Tennant, Adrian. (2020). Listening matters: Top-down and bottom-up listening. One-stop English. Macmillan Education Limited. Retrieved from https://www.onestopenglish.com/listening/listening-matters-top-down-and-bottom-up-listening/154567.article

**Suggested literary text to be examined using Structuralist Approach**

**Sonnet 127**

*William Shakespeare*

In the old age black was not counted fair,

Or if it were, it bore not beauty's name;

But now is black beauty's successive heir,

And beauty slandered with a bastard shame:

For since each hand hath put on Nature's power,

Fairing the foul with Art's false borrowed face,

Sweet beauty hath no name, no holy bower,

But is profaned, if not lives in disgrace.

Therefore my mistress' eyes are raven black,

Her eyes so suited, and they mourners seem

At such who, not born fair, no beauty lack,

Sland'ring creation with a false esteem:

Yet so they mourn becoming of their woe,

That every tongue says beauty should look so.