

***Understanding Public Speaking: A Learner's Guide to Persuasive Oratory* by Braj Mohan, London: Routledge India, 2019, ISBN: 9780367222734, Pages 146, Price- 695/-**

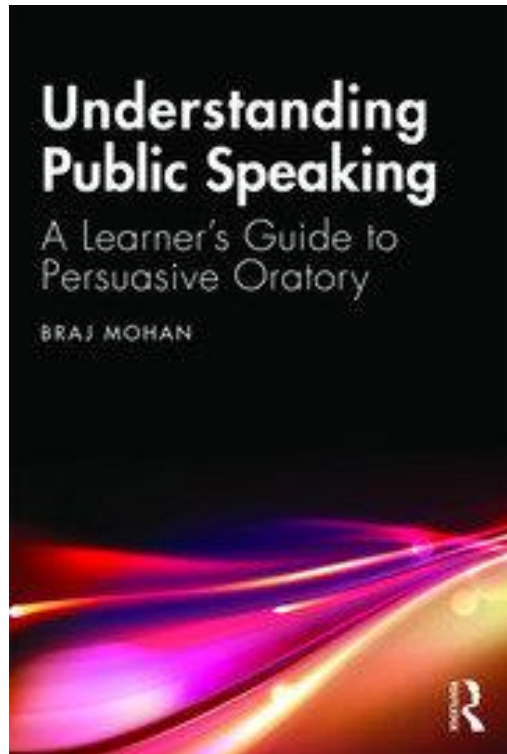
Reviewed by Dharmendra Kumar Mishra
The English and Foreign Languages University,
Lucknow Campus.
Email: dharmmishra73@gmail.com

Public speaking is a valuable art, and all those who want to excel in politics and public dealing wish to polish their rhetorical skills. Only some authentic books are available in the field. So there has always been a need for a compact guide on the art of public speaking which should present authentic material with suitable illustrations. Braj Mohan's *Understanding Public Speaking: A Learner's Guide to Persuasive Oratory* fulfils this requirement for learners of public speaking. Dr Braj Mohan is a PhD in political oratory from the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. He has more than ten years of experience of teaching.

The book was published in 2019 by Routledge. Its global edition was published by Routledge Oxon and Routledge New York, while its South Asian edition was published by Routledge New Delhi. It comprises thirteen chapters that deal with various aspects of persuasive oratory. It is compact, to-the-point, and easy to understand; hence it serves as the perfect handbook for both— causal learners and serious researchers in the area.

The book meticulously explicates the art of public speaking and is dedicated to the learners. The author explicitly explains all the essential strategies used in persuasive oratory. The book claims to reveal theoretical and practical aspects of public speaking by illustrating renowned speakers in history. It establishes the validity and credibility of the book. The author also explains the useful linguistic devices used in persuasive oratory.

The first chapter is all about the importance of the art of oratory in various spheres of life. In the second and third chapters, the author discusses the classical theories of oratory by Aristotle,



Cicero, and Ovid. Besides he also explicates some important strategies of persuasion. In the fourth and fifth chapters, the author describes various tropes and figures that are used to construct and complement a persuasive speech. The chapters also highlight how the choice of words and sentence structure can create a persuasive effect. In the sixth and seventh chapters, he discusses the schematic structure of persuasive speech. Moreover, the chapter also explains strategies for connecting with the audience. In the eighth and ninth chapters, the author talks about how to convey the central issue to achieve the rhetorical goals of the speech. In the tenth chapter, he discusses various strategies for constructing a persuasive discourse. In the eleventh chapter, the author discusses the strategies for effectively concluding the speech. In the twelfth and thirteenth chapters of the book, he talks about the strategies for effective delivery of the speech, where he explains how the strategic use of paralinguistic means, such as pitch, pace, and pause, are used to achieve a persuasive effect. The book concludes with the essential key points that a speaker must remember while delivering a speech.

The book is based on the author's extensive reading and research in the areas of pragmatics and persuasive oratory. It makes the book more effective than those based on observations and individual experiences. In the book, the author has cited the best research in the area and demonstrated each rhetorical strategy with illustrations from famous orators worldwide. This thing makes the book very convincing and comprehensive. As the book has been written keeping in mind the new learners, the author uses a very lucid and comprehensible style, which makes the book a good read. The real-life examples help the learners comprehend the steps and strategies described. The book describes all the required theoretical and practical aspects of public speaking, making it a complete handbook of persuasive oratory. All these key points are the strengths of the book.

Though the author has talked about every aspect of oratory, the book also has a few limitations. He focuses more on political and persuasive oratory than on forensic and motivational oratory. It shows that the book is primarily for learners of persuasive oratory. However, this cannot lessen the value of the book but makes it more focused and well-researched.

The publisher has done justice in producing the book with its premium paper quality, clear printing, well-edited and error-free text, and durable binding. The author's deep understanding of the subject and research orientation in dealing with the topic is visible on each page. So, the book can be recommended as an authentic reference to serious researchers in the area. It can also prove an effective handbook for the students of public speaking in general.