You’ll be hearing from us shortly

The poem You’ll be hearing from us, shortly, is in the format of an interview, showcasing how an interview can unnerve a candidate though prejudices and biases. Even though it is presented in the form of a dialogue, at no point do we hear the interviewee ; at the same time, it is interesting to note that the interviewee’s mind set and personality is well revealed.

The interview begins in an objective way, but, as the interview proceeds, the reader is able to see through the condescending attitude of the interviewer. There is a controlled way of speaking, designed to confuse the candidate and forcing her to agree with interviewer’s negative comments

The interviewer begins with the application form and opines that the qualifications of the candidate are not what the organization had in mind and indicates that she is perhaps over qualified for the post. From this point, the objective approach slowly turns into a negative analysis of her suitability for the post. Her age is a little more mature for them since they want a candidate ‘with precisely the right degree of immaturity’.

The next comment attacks her looks and personality; since the job she has applied for involves contact with the general public, the candidate is forced to admit that her looks may be disturbing to the public; here we find the invasion into a more personal territory.

The pessimistic experience continues; the next target is her accent, which reflects her education and brutally attacked by the interviewer; she is forced to agree that it’s a handicap for her.

The next assault is on her marital status, which, with children, indicates ‘ a dubious desire to perpetuate’ and the theme of sexism is blatantly evident in this stanza. The final assault is on her place of stay and birth which is absolutely racist and sexist; the discrimination reaches its peak here.

The poem presents to the reader themes of power concepts, complex structure of society, false notions that lead to unfair discrimination, prejudices that border on arrogance. In the corporate world where there is a unique power relation, the employee is what the corporate world expects us to be and not what we are. The interviewer uses his position to dominate aggressively over a helpless woman. We find this domination becoming crystal clear as the interviewer is able to convince the interviewee that his existence is a pity by the end of the poem.

The poem becomes a dark satire on modern interview conducted to discriminate; the poet uses irony , short stanzas in run on sentences, monologue format of an interview , and a sarcastic tone which implies so many meanings. The poem finally turns out to be a psychological manipulation of a silenced interviewer who suffers from a loss of personal identity. The title of the poem is remarkable in its own way; nowhere in the poem we hear these lines, but the tone and the monologue convey the outcome of the interview with absolute clarity.