

PALINDROME vis a vis CARCINIC: Short Note

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It is well known that the word palindrome was first introduced by Henry Peacham in 1638. The word is a dithematic one consisting of two parts : palim meaning again and drome meaning ways and running. But we should remember that the original Greek word for palindrome was carcinati meaning crab-like. Semantically speaking, the close affinity of the Greek word with its modern English counterpart lies in the fact that it points to the movement of crab on sea shore. It can move forward and backward, sideways right-handed and left-handed with equal ease and felicity. In this sense the crab can be said to be an ambi-dexterous creature who can move with equal facility dexterously (right-handed) and sinisterously (left-handed) if we may be allowed to use this expression. We tend to appreciate dexterity of people as all good works are done by right hand, and we condemn the sinister design of people as all evil deeds are carried out mostly by left hand. So when we are dealing with palindrome words or numbers we are metaphorically moving our mind and carrying out mental exercise just like a crab, moving forward and backward, right-handed and left-handed as per the demand and requirement of the item under our intent consideration and acute scrutiny .