

What the future of oratory in general will be it is impossible to forecast. The English word 'orator' seems to have fallen on evil days. It is rarely used without a slightly derisory accent as when men say with curious emphasis, 'I am no orator as Brutus is'. The orators of ancient times felt themselves to be engaged on a task of the highest worth and value. They were 'shaping works for all the future' and "offering themselves to be examined by all-testing Envy and Time", as one of the ancient writers said when defending and praising the scrupulous care taken by Demosthenes. Today, the care and attention given to the art of public speaking has sensibly declined. Sir Winston Churchill was, in many respects, a survivor from the golden age of oratory. No doubt it could be said of him as was said of the great orator of ancient times, 'he adopts no thought, no word at random, but takes much care of both the arrangement of his ideas and the graciousness of his language'. English oratory is adorned with many famous names and among them Churchill stands extraordinarily high. For more than fifty years he has expressed himself on great national and international matters, and the volumes of his speeches are a history in themselves. Many of his speeches will live as examples of human speech at its highest and best, and they will be woven into the fabric of our own history and the history of the world.

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It is not possible to predict the future of oratory. The public speakers of ancient times put their heart and soul into this art. Unfortunately, the grip on language and command on ideas is fading in present times. Churchill serves as a benchmark when referring to historic speeches. His words and exemplary skill shall remain alive in history forever.

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Churchill: The Exemplary Orator