

LITERATURE AND LIFE

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Introduction :-

Literature is mostly considered as the expression of one's thoughts through various mediums as prose, poetry, story, drama, criticism and so on. But a very subjective way of considering it may be an expression of life itself as lived by different individuals. Therefore it is inevitable to discuss literature in the context of life.

Keywords: *Life, Literature, Ambiguity, Subjectivity, Infinity.*

Abstract :-

In this article titled 'Literature and Life', a brief discourse on the relevance of different elements and forces of life which constantly pave the way for literature construction is presented. However, literature being both real and fictional derives its sources from life itself.

Keywords :-

Literature in a very generic sense is considered as type of writings on any subject : the body of artistic writings of a country or period that are characterized by beauty of expression and form and by universality of intellectual and emotional appeal. Having said that, literature cannot be isolated from life. The different terms associated with literature such as subject, beauty, expression, form, universality, etc. are intimately connected to life itself.

Need for the Study :-

Literature need to be discussed in the context of life. A critical study of the works of different writers of various historical periods shall bring to light the fact that their works were a consequence of various life forces- be it political, social, economic, environmental, ideological or religious.

Objectives of the Study :-

The objectives of the study are as follows -

- (i) To emphasize on the importance of life in the context of literature.
- (ii) To make it clearer that life is an inevitable element of literature and that literature is not just lasting artistic merit or writings published on a particular subject.
- (iii) To bring to light the fact that literature is not like a water-tight compartment. Ambiguity, subjectivity, infinity etc. are terms that are deeply related to literature.

Methods of the Study :-

The method of the study is the discussion method. The sources for the method include both primary and secondary. Primary sources include observation and discourse. Secondary sources comprise of novels, books, magazines, internet, etc.

Scope of the Study :-

Literature can be considered as work of creative imagination. And therefore this world of imagination is a world of endless things. It can be anything. Imagination itself is a world of infinity. Therefore it can reach up to anything. This article makes an attempt to study some of the spheres of this world of imagination (conscious and sometimes sub-conscious), through literature.

Substance :-

Almost every human being is faced with the philosophy of their meaning of life; why they were placed in the setting they are in and what they feel the need to accomplish in their lifetime. Because this question is such a broad, vastly fully unanswerable one, it can be argued that characters in fiction often try and find meaning based on the setting, or environment they find themselves in. Characters might often find themselves on journeys to sudden epiphany, typically in their immediate or close setting in hopes to answer that big question about themselves. Having said that, the meaning of life is always perceived on the basis of opinion, on what the character finds true to themselves, or what we as readers find true to them.

The meaning of life and literature construction :-

What is the true meaning of your existence in life? What's the purpose of having life? I researched many peoples view on life and many of them said life was a beautiful thing, and they are happy to live their life. Some said they really don't know why they are living or what they are living for. Some didn't even care at all because they knew they would eventually meet death soon or later, kind of similar to the character named Meursault in the book "The Stranger" by Albert Camus. When Mersault argues that the only certain thing in life is the belief of death and because all humans will eventually meet death, all lives are all the same and meaningless. Maman died today. Or, may be, yesterday; I can't be sure. I got a telegram from the home : "Mother deceased. Funeral tomorrow. Faithfully yours". That doesn't mean anything. May be it was yesterday. (Camus 1). Mensrault didn't really have a relationship with his mother, so when he found out she was dead he really didn't know how to react. Meursault then sees himself to be indifferent towards emotion and interaction with others. Instead of being sad like most people would be about the news of their mother dying. He was cold, removed and indifferent.

Another important work, a play by Bertolt Brecht, named 'Waiting for Godot' clearly reveals how life forces affect the writings of a writing. Brecht was a German theatre practitioner, playwright and poet. Living in Munich during the Weimar Republic, he had his first successes with theatre plays, whose themes were often influenced by his Marxist thought. One of the famous quotes of Brecht is-

"Don't expect the theatre to satisfy the habits of its audience, but to change them".

"Waiting for Godot", a play by Samuel Beckett is about two men, Vladimir and Estragon, who are waiting for a third, Godot, to arrive. Very little happens, and during their long wait the men talk about their lives. Godot never comes, and the play suggests that life has no meaning and is full of suffering.

Various factors of human life such as the society, politics, economics, ideology etc. have a deep connection with the construction of creative imagination. A writer needs to keep in mind all these factors in the process of his literary creation. Literature is the reflection of life of the age in which it is produced or written. It provides a true and actual record of the social, economic, political and religious condition of the time. The literary man is bound to be affected by the incidents and happenings of the society in which one lives.

The connection between literature and life is intimate and vital. Literature is the expression of individual and social life and thought through language. While the subject matter and treatment is such as are of general human interest, the expression is emotive, the form gives aesthetic pleasure and satisfaction.

Literature must not be confounded with sociology, philosophy, religion or psychology though these give substance and depth to literature. It may or may not impart knowledge or religious or moral instruction directly. Its theme may be social problem or political revolution or religious movement, but it may, with equal justification, be an individual's passion, problem or fantasy. But the objective is not so much to teach as to delight.

Books are literature when they bring us into some relation with real life. Herein lies its power and universal appeal. While there are some who take perfection of form to be the chief pre-occupation of literature, many more are inclined to the view that the primary value of literature is its human significance. Literature must be woven out of the stuff of life as its mirror. Its value depends on the depth and breadth of the life that it paints.

Conclusion:-

Literature represents the culture and tradition of lives or people. The concept is difficult to precisely define, though many have tried. It is clear that the accepted definition of literature is constantly changing and evolving. For many, the word literature suggests a higher art form; merely putting words on a page does not necessarily equate to creating literature. Literary works provide a kind of blueprint of human society. According to William Shakespeare, "All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances." This was a quote on metaphor which is another important component of literature. The quote clearly signals the fact that life and literature are two inseparable subjects.

Reference :-

- 1) 'The Stranger'; Camus Albert (1942), Gallimard, French.
- 2) 'Waiting for Godot'; <https://www.britannica.com>
- 3) www.shakespeare-online.com

