

Literature and Society: How Literature reflects society.

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Abstract:- Literature exhibits or in other words is the mirror of the society. It plays an exceptionally important role right from the history. Basically Literature reflects human activity in that particularly society. Literature helps to expose societal realities. Most of the works in literature deals with the social issues in detail which helps people to realize the truth and think it in a different view than the people who don't show their face to literature. It have a unique function in shaping and teaching society at huge. Literature carries the real events in the society and presents it as a mirror of the society so that people can view it and atone wherever it is necessary. Understanding how literature persuades the person and how it is reflective of individual's society is something that should be given more consideration and thought. Shakespeare in Hamlet holds the view that the purpose of literature is "to hold the mirror up to nature". Here the word nature indicates the broad spectrum of human nature.

The basic purpose of literature is to revitalize and influence our thought process. Literature helps us to record thoughts and feelings of great minds. It captivated us in two ways that is by its content and the way it is presented. The content should please the readers and it should create some interest in some way. The manner should be in such a way that will please the reader and adds to his pool of knowledge.

To know this naturally we have language to connect with each other. With this power of language we are on the way of creating literature. For example if we take poems which is filled with poet's feelings. When we read it, we get interest in it and we feel with him as one. Society forms the bond of association between man and man through communicating that the poet or writers to pursues. Literature influences the society. Society is referred in literature. In all language and all ages there had been a close relationship between literature and society. Literature cannot escape at any age from the influence of the social affairs and therefore it reflects the society of the age when it is created.

The rules and regulations of our society are governed by some mystical forces we don't know of. Still, our lives go on, we take birth and we eventually die. There are some new rules while some old ones outlive the rest. On pondering, we do realize, that, books published in certain corresponding eras, have shaped the society and people's' thoughts and actions. They decided how people felt , their thoughts and acted as they did. Inconspicuously, books crept into people's' lives, and nonetheless hold to do so, have an impact on the unconscious and thereby, body the society. They narrate the story of our lives. Literature also sometimes represent types of people belongs to that period. For example if we take Chaucer's work Prologue to Canturbury Tales all the characters in these tales are the true representation of the types of such people during his time.

Literature symbolizes society or the world in all aspects. It has been creating a huge impact in development of society by changing the political system and a preview of humans who experience this in their life.

The impact of Literature plays a major role in country's development. Fro e.g. UAE, undergoing a quick development in short period and undoubtedly literature impact in the backbone of their development.

Our biggest problem or drawback is some people fail to read books. Many people don't have the habit of reading books and fail to realize the importance of literature.

Literature makes us to deeply analyse societal issues and sometimes it provides us a solution to solve the problem. The Poet, the dramatist, the novelist, the essayist all of them reflects society in their works.

Literature portrays people engaging in social interactions. We can observe our society as it is distilled and reflected in literature. Everybody wants to live in a world of imagination escaping from reality, because everybody in their daily round passes though the same world which tires them, the same human existence, and the same human nature or character either in him or in others. Therefore, everybody wants some kind of beautification or glorification of things which one experience in one's own life and which are comparatively either ugly or colorless. It is imagination that makes thing colorful, while it is reality that makes thing rather charmless and even unpleasant. So it is the works of the imaginative writers that provide food for recreation to the readers because they allow the readers to have a temporary escape form reality of life; while the world of realistic writers serve as the mirror of society and contemporary life and times.

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Literature reflects both good and bad values of the society. In reflecting the bad values it makes us to rectify and solve the issues. In reflection of good values in the society it makes us to emulate. Often as reflection, literature presents a picture of what people think, say and do in the society.

Literature records the real life events from the society and converts these mundane activities into fiction and presents them to the society as a mirror in which people may look at their own images and make amends wherever necessary. But at the same time we must keep in view Aristotle's concept of literary imitation when he says:

It is not the function of the poet to relate what has happened, but what may happen... The poet and the historian differ not by writing in verse or in prose.... The true difference is that one relates what has happened, the other what may happen... The world of poetry, it is said, presents not facts but fiction: such things have never happened; such things have never lived.... Not real but a higher reality, what ought to be not what is. (167-68) Thus literature is not only a reflection of the society but also serves a beacon light which guide people to find the right path. In order to understand well how literature reflects the society it is necessary to observe the relationship between literature and society. There are several examples of the attempts to describe and define the influence of society on literature and to assess the position and the role of literature is particularly cultivated and professed by those who had a specific social philosophy to advance. Generally the relationship between literature and society is discussed in the light of the statement given by De Bonold that "Literature is an expression of society". This statement is as problematic and ambiguous as the statement. "Literature is the mirror of society". If we assume that literature mirrors the prevailing social life 'correctly' this is false that literature depicts some social reality and at the time to say that literature mirrors life as it is, even more ambiguous. No doubt a writer inevitably expresses his perception, experience and conception of life. Even the most representative writer of a given time cannot express a complete picture of his time and society because it would lead to the idea that a writer conveys the truth and necessarily the historical and the social truths. In fact literature is really not a reflection of the world as it is but an effort to transcend these facts to arrive at the real fact.

Literature greatly influences younger generations and it would help them to understand where their ancestors has went wrong and how they could rectify the errors. Literature also helped in shaping civilizations and changing political systems. So keeping all this in mind we should take a step to

make sure that young children has to read literature work as they are the future of our country.

REFERENCES

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