
: STRUCTURE :

16.0 Objectives**16.1 Introduction****16.2 Literary Terms****16.3 Exercise****16.4 Let Us Sum Up****16.4 Books Suggested****Answers**

16.0 OBJECTIVES

In this Unit we shall;

- learn a few selected literary terms, along with their detail meaning,
 - learn about association of the terms discussed in this unit.
-

16.1 INTRODUCTION

This present unit defines and discusses terms that are commonly used to understand, classify, analyze, and interpret literature. The selected literary terms will definitely provide guideline for further reading of literature especially toward undergraduate students of English, and other literatures. However, these literary terms are proved to be a useful for advanced students, as well as for the general reader with literary interests.

16.2 LITERARY TERMS

1. **Free Will** : Free will is the ability to choose between different possible courses of action. It is closely linked to the concept of responsibility, praise, guilt and sin. If there is no free will, there is no retributive justification for rewarding or punishing anybody for action. Existentialists believed that we are condemned to choose.
2. **Gothic** : Gothic people were East Germanic tribe. In 18th century, it was used to define barbarous, uncouth and uncultured. Gradually, its meaning broadened to signify Teutonic or Germanic and then medieval in general. It applied to literature, architecture and other arts. Gothic fiction is a subgenre of literature that combines fiction, horror and romanticism. Horace Walpole wrote a novel *The Castle of Otranto*. Mary Shelley also wrote '*Frankenstein*.' The works of E.A. Poe can also be classed as Gothic.
3. **Hellenism** : Hellenism refers to ancient Greek culture or ideals. It can be defined as the national character of Greek culture and art. It also applies to the study of ancient Greek culture or its imitation. John Keats was profoundly influenced by Hellenism. He believed like the

Greeks that beauty was synonymous with truth. Hellenism influenced the aesthetic movement of 18th and 19th century England and Germany focusing on art for art's sake.

4. **Historicism** : Historicism is a mode of thinking that assigns major significance to a specific context, such as historical periods geographical place and local culture. Historicism also comprises of artistic styles that draw inspiration from recreating historic styles. This is especially prevalent in architecture. New historicism in literary criticism emphasises the historicity of a text by relating it to the configurations of power, society or ideology in a given time.
5. **Humanism** : It is an outlook or system of thought attaching prime importance to human rather than divine or the supernatural. Humanists believe that man is at the centre of the universe. They believe in 'this world' rather than 'the other world'. They emphasize common human needs, seek solely rational ways of solving human problems. The Renaissance movement revived interest in ancient Greek and Roman.
6. **Hybridity** : Hybridity is one of the important ideas of Homi Bhabha. He borrowed the term from Edward Said's work. He does not see colonialism as something locked in the past, but he shows how its histories and cultures constantly intrude on the present.
7. **Imagism** : It was a movement that took place in early 20th century English and American poetry that sought clarity of expression theorist the use of precise images. The movement derived in part from the aesthetic philosophy of T.E. Hulme and involved Ezra Pound, James Joyce, Lowell and others. They emphasized on the use of common speech, new rhythms, unrestricted subject matter and clear and precise images.
8. **Judicial Criticism** : It seeks to pronounce judgments on works of literature on the basis of certain rules. If a work is found to adhere to these, it is good. If not, it is condemned as worthless. Such rules were derived from ancient Greek and Roman masters. Dr. Johnson can be rules, called the exponent of judicial criticism.
9. **Langue** : Ferdinand de Saussure used the term 'Langue' for formal language. Language encompasses the abstract, systematic rules and conventions of a signifying system. It pre-exists individual users.
10. **Linguistics** : It is a scientific study of language and it includes the study of morphology, syntax, phonetics and semantics. Specific branches of linguistics include sociolinguistics, historical-comparative linguistics and applied linguistics. The earliest activities in the description of language have been attributed to Panini (4th century B.C.) in Sanskrit in his book *Ashthadhyayi*.
11. **Mimesis** : Greek word meaning 'imitation' Aristotle used it for literature. Plato said that the whole material world was a copy of the absolute. Aristotle in Poetics called all arts mimetic. He said that tragedy is a skillful selection and presentation of imitation of life. In tragedy, the characters are better than the real; while in comedy, they are inferior.

12. **Multiculturalism** : Multiculturalism is a body of thought in political philosophy about the proper way to respond to cultural and religious diversity. It describes the existence, acceptance or promotion of multiple cultural traditions within a single jurisdiction. It advocates equal respect to the various cultures in a society.
13. **Mysticism** : It is a constellation of distinctive practices, discourses, texts, institution and traditions aimed at human transformation. It is a belief that union with the absolute can be attained through contemplation or self-surrender. It is often characterized by self-delusion and dreamy state of mind. It believes in attaining oneness with all human beings and nature.
14. **Naturalism** : It was a literary movement or tendency from 1880's to 1930's. Emile Zola was the pioneer of this movement in literary characteristics of naturalism are determinism, the opposite of free will and pessimism. It is characterized by detachment from the story works.
15. **Neo-classicism** : The revival of classical style or treatment in art, literature, architecture or music. As an aesthetic and artistic style, this originated in Rome in mid 18th century, combining a reaction against the late baroque and rococo with a new interest in antiquity. In music the term refers to a return by composers of the early 20th century to the forms and styles of the 17th and 18th centuries, as a reaction against 19th century Romanticism.
16. **Objective Correlative** : The term was used by T.S. Eliot in his work Tradition and the Individual Talent. It refers to a pattern of objects, actions or events which can serve effectively to awaken in the reader the emotional response which the author intends to give without giving a direct statement of that emotion. T.S. Eliot believed that great art is always objective and impersonal and therefore, a great artist evokes emotional response in the readers indirectly.
17. **Oedipus Complex** : The term Oedipus complex is a term used by the great psychologist, Freud. It explains the emotions and ideas that the mind keeps in the unconscious via repression that concentrate upon a child's desire to have sexual relations with the parent of the opposite sex. Males are attracted to mothers and daughters to fathers.
18. **Orientalism** : It can be defined as a manner of regularized. Orientalism writing, vision and study dominated by imperatives, perspectives and ideological biases of ostensibly suited to the orient. Edward Said propagated the concept in his book Orientalism.
19. **Paganism** : It is a term that developed among the Christian community of Southern Europe during antiquity to describe religions other than their own. In 19th century, it was re-adopted as a self-descriptor by members of various artistic groups inspired by the ancient world. It was used pejoratively for polytheists.

20. **Parole** : Parole is the actual use of the language by the individual speaker. It is the psychical manifestation of speech. Difference between things is what makes people understand what is said and depicted and therefore how we communicate.
21. **Positivism** : A philosophical system that holds that every rationally justifiable assertion can be scientifically verified or is capable of logical or mathematical proof. It rejects metaphysics and theism. It is a philosophy of science that positive facts, information derived from sensory experience interpreted through rational, logical or mathematical treatments form exclusive source of all authoritative knowledge.
22. **Primitivism** : It is a belief in the value of what is simple and unsophisticated, expressed as a philosophy of life or through art or literature. It was a Western art movement that borrows visual forms from Non-Western or pre-historic peoples. It is the pursuit of ways of life running counter to the development of technology.
23. **Psycho-analysis** : It is a system of psychological theory and therapy that aims to treat disorders by investigating the interaction of conscious and unconscious elements in the mind and bringing repressed fears and conflicts into the conscious mind by techniques such as drama interpretation and free association.
24. **Pluralism** : It is a condition or systems in which two or more states, groups, principles, sources authority exist. It is a practice of holding more than one office or church benefice at a time. It denotes a diversity of views and stands rather than a single approach a method of interpretation.
25. **Platonism** : Platonism is a view that there exist such things as abstract objects. It does not exist in space or time. It is non-physical and non-mental. It is the philosophy of Plato. The primary concept is the Theory of Forms. The only true being is founded upon the forms, the eternal, unchangeable and perfect of which particular objects of senses are imperfect copies.
26. **Sentimentalism** : It is an excessive expression of the feelings of tenderness, sadness or nostalgia in behaviour, writing and speech.. Sentimentality is a reliance on feelings as guide to truth. In literature, it a device to induce a tender emotional response disproportionate to the situation at hand.
27. **Subaltern** : Gayatri Spivak used the term subaltern in her post-colonial studies. She said that it is not just a classy word for an oppressed. In post-colonial terms, everything that has limited or no access to cultural imperialism is subaltern –a space of difference. Antonio Gramsci (1891– 1937), an Italian intellect first used the term.
28. **Symbolism** : It is an artistic and poetic movement or style using symbolic images and indirect suggestion to express mystical ideas.
29. **Structuralism** : In sociology, anthropology and linguistics, structuralism is the theory that element of human culture must be understood in terms of their relationships to larger, overreading system or structure.

It works to uncover the structure that underlies all things that human do, think, perceive, and feel structuralism developed in the early 1900's in the structural linguistics of Ferdinand de Saussure and others. It is applied to diverse range of fields and areas of knowledge.

30. **Semantics** : It is a branch of linguistics that deals with the meaning of words and especially with historical changes in the meanings. It also means the study of relation between sign and their meanings.
31. **Surrealism** : It was a movement in art and literature that originated in France in 1920's. Andre Breton pioneered the movement. In 1924, its manifesto was issued. It aimed at an expression of the unconscious by freeing mind from logic and rational control. In painting, Dali, Picasso and Tanguy adopted the surrealist technique.
32. **Syllogism** : A logical presentation of an argument through a formula. It aims at a method whereby the logic of an argument is demonstrated through analysis. There are three steps : (1) Major premise (2) Minor premise (3) Conclusion.
33. **Signifier** : Signifier means the sound image or its graphic equivalent. When we speak the word 'cat' or write it as 'C...A... T'. It is the signifier. Saussure used this term for language.
34. **Signified** : The Signified is the meaning that the signifier suggests. There is no physical connection between the signifier and the signified. It is arbitrary and depends on difference for example, 'cat' and 'mat', or 'cat' and 'car'.
35. **Stream of consciousness** : This literary technique describes a character's interior monologue : a continuous flow of thoughts going on in the character's mind. It's a technique that came to the fore in the 20th century, famously championed by Virginia Woolf in *To The Lighthouse* and, more bafflingly, by James Joyce in his groundbreaking novel *Ulysses*, in which the idea of a stream of consciousness is taken to its extreme.
36. **Transcendentalism** : It is an idealistic philosophical and social movement that developed in New England around 1836 in reaction to rationalism. It was influenced by romanticism, Platonism and Kantian philosophy. It taught that divinity pervades all nature and humanity. Its members had progressive views on feminism and communal living. R.W. Emerson and Thoreau were the central figures of the movement.
37. **Utopia** : From the ages, human beings have dreamt of perfect world. These worlds free of conflict, hunger and unhappiness have been unreal but have inspired the mankind. In 1516, Sir Thomas More wrote the first Utopia. He coined the word 'utopia' from the Greek 'ou-topos' which means 'no place' or 'nowhere'.
38. **Unitarianism** : It is a belief that God exists in one person and not three. It is the denial of the doctrine of trinity as well as the full divinity of Jesus. It is a Christian theological movement named for the affirmation that God is one entity.

16.3 EXERCISE

FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH APPROPRIATE OPTION.

1. _____ is an artistic and poetic movement or style using symbolic images and indirect suggestion to express mystical ideas.
(a) Symbolism (b) Symbol (c) Naturalism
2. Oedipal complex is a term used by the great psychologist, _____.
(a) Freud (b) Aristotle (c) Plato
3. Surrealism, a movement in art and literature that originated in France in _____.
(a) 1920 (b) 1930 (c) 1935
4. Aestheticism, is derived from the _____.
(a) Greek (b) Latin (c) French
5. _____ used the term subaltern in her post-colonial studies.
(a) Gayatri Spivak (b) Freud (c) Plato

16.4 LET US SUM UP

In this unit you have learnt;

- a few selected literary terms, along with their detail meaning,
- about association of the terms discussed in this unit.

16.5 BOOKS SUGGESTED

Abrams, Meyer Howard, and Geoffrey Harpham. A glossary of literary terms. Cengage Learning, 2011.

Baldick, Chris. The concise Oxford dictionary of literary terms. Oxford University Press, 1996.

Cuddon, John Anthony. A dictionary of literary terms and literary theory. John Wiley & Sons, 2012.

Childs, Peter, and Roger Fowler. The Routledge dictionary of literary terms. Routledge, 2006.

Web-Resources

https://mthoyibi.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/a-glossary-of-literary-terms-7th-ed_m-h-abrams-1999.pdf

https://www.uv.es/fores/The_Routledge_Dictionary_of_Literary_Terms.pdf

[http://armytage.net/pdsdata/%5BChris_Baldick%5D_The_Concise_Oxford_Dictionary_of_L\(BookFi.org\).pdf](http://armytage.net/pdsdata/%5BChris_Baldick%5D_The_Concise_Oxford_Dictionary_of_L(BookFi.org).pdf)

ANSWERS

1. (a) 2. (a) 3. (a) 4. (a) 5. (a)

♦♦♦♦♦