

**UNIT
1****DEFINITION, MEANING AND
NATURE OF LITERATURE AND
LITERARY STUDIES****: STRUCTURE :****1.0 Objectives****1.1 Introduction****1.2 Definition of Literature****1.2.1 Definition of Literature****1.2.2 Nature of Literature****1.2.3 Literature of Knowledge and Literature of Power****1.2.4 Elements of Literature****1.2.5 Impulses Behind Literature****1.2.6 Language in Literature****1.2.7 Literature as the Expression of the Personality****1.2.8 Style is Man****1.3 Literary Studies****1.3.1 Definition of Literary Studies****1.3.2 Literary Theories/ Approaches to the Study of Literature****1.3.3 Literary Criticism****1.3.4 Literature and Society****1.3.5 Major Literary Genres****1.4 Key Words****1.5 Let Us Sum Up****1.6 Books Suggested****Answers****1.0 OBJECTIVES**

In this unit we shall;

- discuss the definitions of literature and literary studies,
- discuss nature of literature, Elements of literature and impulses that create literature,
- discuss the role of language in literature and how style of writing reflects the personality of the author,
- define literary studies which deal with the relationship of literary works with time, milieu and race,
- discuss briefly the various approaches to the study of literary works.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Literature is a term used to describe written material. The word 'Literature' is derived from the Latin word 'Litra' meaning 'Writing formed with letter of alphabet'. It actually refers to all kind of written and printed materials such as material on medicines or electronics item. Manuals, circulars, pamphlets are also called literature in general sense. Literature proper is imaginative or creative writing especially of recognized artistic value.

Thus literature is a body of written works of language, period and culture. It contains written materials like poetry, fiction, essays, etc. these are creative works of imagination with creative use of language and deal with themes of Universal Interest. Literature is generally classified on the basis of nation, language, historical period, genre and subject matter.

Though Literature is defined as the body of writing, it includes oral literature also which is preserved and transmitted orally from one generation to another.

Literary studies deal with literary theories, theoretical approaches to literature and literary criticism. It is the formal study of works of art which involves explaining, interpreting, evaluating and judging the literary works. Literary criticism is the study, evaluation and interpretation of literature based on the fixed norms of literary theories. Literary theories discuss goals and methods of literature in philosophical manner. Very often literary theorist and literary critics are different as literary theorists build theories and literary critics apply them to the literary works to evaluate or interpret them.

1.2 DEFINITIONS OF LITERATURE

1.2.1 Literature Defined/Various Definitions of Literature :

The word 'literature' is used in a broad sense. It refers to compositions or writings that tell stories, expressions, dramatize situations or propagate ideas. Before the invention of writing, there were literary works, which were recited, spoken or sung and transmitted orally. In ancient India and some western countries, oral tradition existed. Even in present time, there are some societies where oral literary traditions exist particularly among tribal and nomads. Literature has always remained connected with oral performance. Even today, poetry is recited and plays are performed on the stage. Poets and story writers read their works directly before the live audience. It is difficult to define literature wholly to satisfaction. However let us have a look at some definitions from reliable sources.

Merriam –Webster's Collegiate Dictionary considers literature to be "writings having excellence of form or expression and expressing ideas of permanent or universal interest."

Walter Peter, the famous 19th century critic referred to "the matter of imagination or artistic literature" as a "transcript, not of mere fact but of fact in its infinitely varied forms."

Rebecca West says, "Literature must be an analysis of experience and a synthesis of the findings into a unity."

Collins English Dictionary defines Literature as "Writing in prose or verse regarded as having permanent worth through its intrinsic excellence."

Britanica.Com refers to literature "as those imaginative works of poetry and prose distinguished by the intentions of their authors and the perceived aesthetic excellence of their extension."

Ezra Pound says, "Great Literature is simply language charged with meaning to the utmost possible degree."

C.S. Lewis says, "Literature adds to reality, it does not simply describe it. It enriches the necessary competencies that daily life requires and provides; and in this respect, it irrigates the deserts that our life has already become."

"Literature always anticipates life. It does not copy it but molds it to its purpose", says Oscar Wild.

Somerset Maugham called "Poetry the crown of Literature."

Goethe glorified literature by saying that, "the decline of literature indicates the decline of a nation."

Encyclopedia of Britannica classifies literature as "the best expression of the best thought reduced to writing."

Matthew Arnold in his book 'The Study of Poetry' defined poetry as "criticism of life under the conditions fixed for such criticism by the laws of poetic truth and beauty". This definition by Arnold applies to literature in general.

T.S. Eliot says that, "the greatest of literature cannot be determined solely by literary standards though we must remember that whether it is literature or not can be determined only by literary standards."

No definition of literature can be taken as inclusive of an important characteristics of literature and therefore let us draw some vital characteristics of literature based on various definitions.

1. Literature is usually a written material which may include informative works on science, history, philosophy, travel, politics, moral etc.
2. Literature proper is judged on aesthetic grounds
3. The purpose of literature is to provide aesthetic pleasure following the norms of literary truth and beauty.
4. The language of literature is emotive which expresses emotions and arouses feelings.
5. Literary writers use language for its most subtle and complex effects which multiply meaning of words. Readers have to dig out the meanings from its multiple layers.
6. Literature employs metaphorical and symbolic language which defamiliarizes the world described in literary works.

7. Fictionality is one of the most important characteristics of literary texts. Literature is the product of the writers' imagination. Even historical figure created by literary writers are fictitious not real.
8. Literature has no pragmatic function like a newspaper, a book on gardening or cookery book. It is not written for a specific purpose. The only function of a literary work is to delight the reader.
9. Literature has profound human significance as it grows out of life. When we read great books, we come closer to life and understand human nature.
10. Thus, literature is an expression of life through the medium of language.

1.2.2 Nature of Literature :

Understanding nature of literature helps us differentiate between what is literature from what is not literature. The question can be solved by distinguishing the use of language. Language is the raw material of literature like stone or metal for sculpture. Language is not inert, like stone or metal. It is a creation of a mankind charged with cultural heritage of a particular linguistic group.

The language of science is purely denotative. It carries 'thought' while the language of literature carries both emotion and thought. Literary language is expressive and it conveys the tone and the attitude of the writer. It does not merely state or communicate but persuade the readers. Poetic language organizes and employs the resources of day-to-day language. In literary works, aesthetic function is of paramount importance.

In literature, 'I' is functional, not real. Time and place in novels are not real but imaginary. If we accept fictionality and imagination as inevitable traits of literature, we have to exclude Plato, Cicero and Emerson from literary world. In fact there are philosophical and political works with literary qualities despite fictionality and imagination. A literary work is highly complex organization of multiple meanings and that is the reason why literary and non-literary works often over-lap.

Literature provides an objective platform for knowledge and understanding. It connects us with broader cultural world and makes us better human beings.

1.2.3 Literature of Knowledge and Literature of Power :

De Quincey, a famous English essayist of 19th century laid down the distinction between "Literature of knowledge" and "Literature of Power". The function of the literature of knowledge is to teach and the function of literature of power is to move.

"All that is literature seeks to communicate power; all that is not literature, to communicate knowledge".

The object of the first is to inform, prove or persuade while the object of the second is to appeal to the higher understanding or reason and provide aesthetic delight. Literature of power belongs to the domain of poetry, drama and fiction. No logic can be applied to them as there are governed by their own laws.

1.2.4 Elements of Literature :

W. H. Hudson in his famous book *An Introduction to the Study of Literature* discusses four important elements of literature.

1. **The Intellectual Element** : This is an element of thought which the writer expresses in his work. In many famous works of literature, thought or idea is predominates.
2. **Emotional Elements** : Literature is often the result of emotional upsurge. In romantic poetry there are “spontaneous overflow of powerful emotions”.
3. **Elements of Imagination** : Literature is not real or factual but fictitious and imaginative. Imagination is a strong source of creative literature. Creative writers are stirred by intense vision and they arose similar vision in the minds of the readers also.
4. **Technical Element** : Technical Elements is related to craftsmanship and organization of thought, feelings and imagination. This element is connected with style, language, literary devices, metres and other intrinsic elements of works of art.

1.2.5 Impulses Behind Literature :

Why does a writer write ? What are the impulses that give birth to literature ? All human beings have an inherent desire to express themselves. Thus, desire for self-expression is one of the impulses behind literature. People are always interested in lives of others, their thoughts, feelings and problems. This is the impulse that creates novels/short stories, biographies, etc.

Human beings are interested in both the worlds of reality and imagination. The world of reality is dull and dry but the world of imagination is life enhancing and pleasurable. Finally, we are all interested in coherent appearances and form. This desire for form creates literary genres, techniques, styles, diction and literary devices.

1.2.6 Language in Literature :

Stone or bronze is the raw material for sculpture; language is the medium of literature. However, unlike stone or bronze, it is not inert. It is quite complex and demonstrates multiple layers of meaning. Literary language is different from everyday language in old classical literary works. Elizabethans did not talk like Shakespeare's characters. In western literature, the common speech people contributed came to be used as the language of literature.

Basically, language is a means of communication. It communicates ideas, and also expresses feeling or emotion. There are three basic purpose of language.

1. To convey information
2. To express personal information or opinion
3. To get someone to do something

In technical writings, emotional attitudes are out of place. In literary language, the purpose of intentions of the writer is often quite complex. In literature, particularly in poetry, feelings and emotions expressed and aroused are the most important part of the meaning.

“Ambiguity” in literary works refers to multiple shades or meaning to words. The simplest way of distinguishing literary language is its use. Language of science contains ‘thought’ while the language of literature contains thought and emotions. Emotive use of language is confined to literature. Scientific language is “denotative”, and the language literature is full of ambiguities and conveys tone and attitude of the author. Literary language, sound symbolism of the world is stressed. In literary language, meters, patterns of sound, figures of speech are very important. It is also deeply involved in the historical and cultural structure of the language.

Every day language also has expressive function, but it is full of irrationalities. Unlike scientific language, it is not limited merely to communication. It often aims at influencing the listener through expressing the attitude of the speaker that it reflects. In literary language, the resources of language are exploited systematically and rationally.

Alexander Pope believed that literary writing is not a spontaneous act of ease or chance. It comes from art, practice and labour.

1.2.7 Literature as the Expression of Personality :

Matthew Arnold defined literature as the criticism of life. It means that the artists present his own interpretation of life. He/she interprets life as he/she sees it and experiences it. Thus it becomes expression of his/her interpretation of life. The artist holds mirror up to the world which reflects his/her personality. A great book is the product of the brain and heart of the greatness to the greatness of the personality of the author. A great book owes its greatness to the greatness of the personality of the author. A genius is synonymous with originality and freshness. A great book exhibits original outlook of life and the world in an original manner. John Milton said, “A good book is the precious life blood of master spirit.”

Originality does not mean newness but geniuses. Authenticity is a characteristic of great literature. Authenticity in literature means, being faithful to one's own experiences. Literature reflects the personality of the author in an artistic manner. It is not the expression of the experience in universal manner. In great literature the personal turns into the universal, and therefore it appeals to all human beings irrespective of geographical territories and time.

1.2.8. Style is the Man :

Style is not restricted merely to literature. It is a necessary part of any utterance because one chooses the way of speaking for each context. In literary writings, style refers to two main aspects; diction and syntax. Diction relates to the choice and use of words, and syntax relates to sentence structure. Style is part of classical rhetorical devices like metaphor, alliteration and other figure of speech.

Style means the manner. There are styles of dressing, walking, singing, dancing, playing, writing etc. There is also a style of oratory or public speaking. All writers, speakers, singers have their own distinct style. Thus, style becomes a personal matter. It is like voice of a person, distinct and personal. Even when we do not see a person but hear his/her voice, and we recognize him/her.

A famous French writer, Buffon, said, “Le style, cest l'homme” which means “style is the man. “Writer's style is distinctive like the style of his walking. For a student literature, it is necessary to study the style of a writer as the index of his or her personality. Style is not nearly decorative elements but the part of the author's personality. Mimicking someone's style is a meaningless attempt because one can capture only their mannerisms; not their essential qualities. It would be like wearing someone else's clothes which would not suit or fit the person.

Alexander Pop called style “the dress of thought.” For, he considered it an external edition and not the integral part of a work of art. Thomas Carlyle's statement about style is more authentic as he calls it “not the coat of the writer but his skin”. Like skin, it is inseparable and the part of organic whole. The style of a great writer is always marked by individuality. Light is thoughts and feelings, his style is also personal. Style can be studied as a record of the writer's intellectual, emotional, spiritual and artistic growth. It reflects his background, education, upbringing and influences that shaped his personality. Students of literature should, therefore, focus not only on content of a work of art but its style.

❖ **CHECK YOUR PROGRESS :**

ANSWER IN BRIEF.

1. What does ‘Literature’ mean in a general sense?
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2. What is literature proper? Explain it.
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3. What do literary studies deal with?
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4. How does the literary language differ from scientific and everyday language?
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5. What is the function of literature of power?

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WRITE SHORT NOTES.

1. De Quincey Views on Literature of Knowledge and Literature of Power.
2. The elements of Literature.

1.3 LITERARY STUDIES

1.3.1 Definitions of Literary Studies :

A literary study is the study, evaluation and interpretation of Literature. Literary Criticism lays standards for evaluation of literary works. It analyzes the details of a text in order to reveal its structure and meaning. Literary study is the humanistic study of literature. Literature uses language in particular ways and, therefore, literary studies focus on language of a given literary work. Literature “transforms and intensifies ordinary language deviates systematically from everyday speech.” (Eagleton)

Literature is broadly defined as written or spoken material but the term refers to creative, fictional works. It includes poetry, drama, fiction, and several non-fiction writings. It also includes oral literature which existed in old times particularly among indigenous people. Oral literature is handed down from one generation to another.

The four important criteria of literature are

1. Fictionally
2. Specialized language
3. Lack of pragmatic function
4. Ambiguity

Fictionally refers to imaginary world created by the artist. Even in historical novels, the writer employs his imagination in creation of his characters, setting, dialogues, etc. The language in literature differs from scientific language and everyday language. As the Russian formalists maintained, literary texts use language in such a way that it becomes strange and unfamiliar. This process is called the process of defamiliarization. A literary writer employs rhetorical devices, poetic devices and other technical features for defamiliarizing the language he uses.

Another important characteristic of literature is that it has no practical purpose. It has no specific function like books of cookery, gardening and engineering. It has no social, moral or other pragmatic function. Literature exists for its own sake. The only purpose of literature is to provide aesthetic delight. Ambiguity denotes multilayered interpretations of a literary text.

Literary studies deal with methods and approaches to the study of literature. The history of any nation's literature is the record of the unfolding

of that nation's character and culture. History deals with the external aspects of the nation and people. Literature deals with inner and spiritual traits of the nation. That is the reason why we speak of literature as Greek literature, English literature, French Literature and so on. We study literature also as a product of society. A great sociological critic, Taine applied the formula of the race, milieu and time. According to him, literature is shaped by the race of the writers, totality of the surroundings, their climate and physical environment. Time factor also plays a very important role in literature and, therefore, we classify literature based on literary periods like the Renaissance, Neo-Classical Age, Romantic or Victorian Age.

Literary studies deal with sociological, historical cultural point of view in evaluation literature. Modern theories focus on the text, its structure and style.

1.3.2 Literary Theories and Approaches to Study of Literature :

There are five theoretical approaches to the study of literature.

1. Text-oriented approach
2. Author-oriented approach
3. Reader-oriented approach
4. Content-oriented approach
5. Literary-critique or evaluation

In text-oriented approach, the text is analyzed from textual point of view. Textual analysis can be carried out at three levels—phonological, structural and semantic—stylistic. Phonological level relates to patterns of sound and rhythm. Structural levels deal with grammatical patterns. We study simile, metaphor, imagery, paradox, irony etc. at the semantic—stylistic level.

In author-oriented approach, we study the relationship between author and his works. In reader oriented approach, the focus is on analyzing the connection between the works of literature and readers. In context-oriented approach, the literary works are studied from a historical, cultural, social, or political point of view. Literary critique or evaluation is scholarly analysis of a work of art based on accepted methodology and critical theory.

1.3.3 Literary Criticism :

Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines literary criticism as “the formal study and discussion of works of literature, which involves judging and explaining their importance and meaning.”

Literary theories are applied to judge or evaluate the literary works. Western criticism has been dominated by two theories of literary art the expressive and constructive theories of composition. Aristotle was the first great critic belonging to the constructive school of thought. In his *Poetics*, he gave theories of the construction of tragedy. For him, the expressive elements were of secondary importance. Longinus differed from Aristotle who focused on the expressive aspect of a work of art. In Western criticism, this controversy between the constructive or the impressive aspect of literary

works has always been debated. This anti-thesis has endured in European history of literary criticism and philosophy throughout the ages in the form of Scholasticism versus Humanism, Classicism versus Romanticism, Cubism versus Expressionism and so on.

Major Western and English critics are as follows: Aristotle, Longinus, Sir Philip Sidney, Nicolas Boileau, Ben Jonson, John Dryden, Alexander Pope, Samuel Johnson, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Matthew Arnold, John Ruskin, Walter Peter, Oscar Wilde, Charles Baudelaire, Gustave Flaubert, Emile Zola, Hippolyte Taine, Sainte-Beuve, Benedetto Croce, T. S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, T.E. Hulme, J.C. Ransom, Cleanth Brooks, Paul Valery, I.A. Richards, and Northrop Frye etc.

Major literary theories and movements in Western Literary Criticism include, classicism, romanticism, aestheticism, Marxism, Russian formalism, psycho-analysis, New Criticism, structuralism, deconstruction, modernism, Post modernism, Post-structuralism, feminist theory, Post-colonialism, cultural studies, reader-response theory and so on.

1.3.4 Literature and Society :

Literature and society have close relationship as the writer is a member of a society and readers are also members of a society. The science of society is sociology which is the scientific study of human society. Literature is also a social product, for it reflects human society and human life in general. Literature like sociology examines the realistic picture of human life. Like, sociology, literature is profoundly concerned with social world. So, literature can be regarded as the expression of human life through the medium of language which is also a social creation. W.H. Hudson aptly remarks, "Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language".

Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in their great book *Theory of Literature* remark that, "Literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation". Literature portrays life which is a social reality. Literature influences society and it is also influenced by society. Literary works reflect social, political, religious and cultural values of the contemporary society. Form and style also change in accordance with the changes in the temper of the society.

Literary works are the result of social forces and therefore they cannot be separated from society. If we compare the poets of Neo-classical Age with the poet of Romantic Age, we shall find certain common characteristic in Neo-classical poets like reason, emphasis on expression etc. and in Romantic poets, we would find predominance of emotions, imagination, lyricism and spontaneity.

Every literary artist is an individual but he is also the product of a particular society and culture. Culture and society are affected by Time

Spirit and also racial characteristic of the people. That is the reason why history of literature is divided into certain periods with common characteristics. Goethe has rightly said that, “Everyman is a citizen of his age as well as his country”. We should study literary writers individually but also as members of a particular age and nation. Certain genres were produced in certain ages only. For example, the age of Shakespeare was the age of Drama, the 18th century was the age of prose, satire and novels. Romantic Age gave way to outburst of emotions and flights in imagination.

Marxist criticism interpreted works of literature based on class relations, social conflicts and economic inequality. According to Marxist theory, individuals are capitalist subjects. In India, literature produced during Gandhian era focused on social upliftment, rural life and swadeshi movement. These examples show that literature can be studied from social point of view as literature and society are inseparably linked.

1.3.5 Major Literary Genres :

There are two main divisions of literary forms : (1) Prose and (2) Poetry. Prose is made up of sentences and paragraphs without metrical or rhyming structure. Poetry is a literary work with intense expression of feelings and thoughts in distinctive style and rhythm. Poetic language generally differs from language used in prose. It has rhythmic and aesthetic qualities. Good poetry has multiple layers of meanings that require profound aesthetic understanding on the part of readers.

The following are the major literary genres.

1. **Novel** : Novel is a long narrative divided into chapters. There are characters, plot, setting and dialogues.
2. **Short Story** : it is a narrative that involves a few characters, one plot and one single incident. It can be read at a single sitting. It often ends abruptly.
3. **Plays/Drama** : a play is written to be performed on the stage. It is divided into acts and each act is divided into scenes. There are also plots, characters, settings and dialogues in the play. There is no narration but dramatic presentation. Development of plot and characters depends solely on dialogues.
4. **Poetry** : Poetry is a metrical composition with the expression of emotions and ideas. It is a perfect form of utterances with rhythm and beauty. Poetry is defined as “criticism of life” that adheres to the laws of poetic truth and beauty. Poetry is further divided into narrative poetry, lyric, ode, song, ballad, elegy and epic.
5. **Epic** : Epic is a long narrative poem based on the legends of popular heroes. There are two types of epic – the epic of growth and the epic of art. Epic of growth evolves with the passage of time. It is based on stories sung and transmitted orally by bards and minstrels. *Iliad*, *Odyssey* and *Beowulf* are the examples of epics of growth. In India, we have *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* as the examples of the epics of growth. The epic of art is the product of an individual genius. It is

the result of scholarship, profound knowledge and labour. Milton's *Paradise Lost* is the example of the epic of art.

6. **Ballad** : Ballad can be defined as a short story in verse. It was a song with narrative story often sung to the accompaniment of dancing. Ballads often dealt with the themes of love, adventure, heroism, valour and supernatural incidents. Like, epic there are ballads of growth and literary ballads.
7. **Elegy** : Elegy is a lyric of lament or mourning at the death of a friend or someone. There is a sincerity of sad emotion in elegy. It often expresses reflections on death, transitoriness of human life and meaninglessness of human dreams. There is an elegy called “pastoral elegy” with pastoral background forests, shepherds and natural surroundings.
8. **Ode** : ode is a kind of a lyric. It can be defined as a rhymed lyric, often in the form of oddness, generally defined or exalted in subject, feeling and style. For example, “Ode to Nightingale” by John Keats. There are two kinds of odes: (1) Pindaric Ode (2) Horatian Ode.
9. **Lyric** : The word ‘lyric’ comes from ‘lyre’ a stringed musical instrument. Originally, it was used for poetry meant to be sung in accompaniment of lyre. However this has now come to signify short, musical poem. Lyrics deal with emotions of love, patriotism, sadness, joy and love for nature etc. It is characterized by intensity of emotions and spontaneity. Romantic age produced great lyrics in English literature.
10. **Sonnet** : it is a lyrical poem written in 14 lines in iambic pentameter. It originated in Italy and its pioneer was Petrarch. Sir Thomas Wyatt and the Earl of Surrey brought it to England and experimented with it in 16th century. Petrarchan sonnet is divided into two parts: Octave (8 lines) and Sestet (6 lines) Shakespearean sonnet is divided into three quatrains and a couplet (4 + 4 + 4 + 2)
11. **Tragedy** : Tragedy is a play with serious action and sad ending. Aristotle defined it in his *Poetics* as imitation of serious action which provides catharsis to emotions of pity and fear. William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*, *King Lear* are great examples of tragedy.
12. **Comedy** : Comedy is a play with happy ending. It is humorous and amusing. The goal of comedy is usually to induce laughter in the audience. Aristotle termed comedy as an imitation of men who are inferior to average. Comedy is often satirical in tone. There are different forms of comedy such as romantic comedy, comedy of manners, comedy of humor, satire, black comedy and so on. William Shakespeare wrote beautiful romantic comedy like *As you like It*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night*, *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream*, etc.
13. **Essay** : Essay is “loose sally of mind” said Dr. Johnson. It is a composition of moderate length on any particular subject. Like a lyric, it is often highly personal. It deals with any subject, ‘from dust to the star’ (Hugh Walker). Bacon wrote discursive essays depicting practical

wisdom and pragmatic philosophy. Charles Lamb wrote highly personal essays and Addison and Steele popularized periodical essays which became the forerunner of novel. Periodical essay was quite popular in 18th century and brought philosophy out of closet to public places and coffee houses.

- 14. Literary Criticism :** Literary criticism is also regarded as a branch of literature. Literary works deal with life; criticism deals with life; criticism interprets literary works. Therefore, literary criticism can be defined as criticism of the criticism of life. The chief function of criticism is to enlighten and highlight the beauties of the work of art.

❖ **CHECK YOUR PROGRESS :**

(A) FILL IN THE GAPS IN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES FROM THE WORDS GIVEN BELOW.

1. De Quincey was a famous _____.
 2. _____ in literary work denotes multiple meanings.
 3. Taine was a famous _____ critic.
 4. Textual analysis can be carried out as _____ levels.
 5. _____ level deals with grammatical patterns.
 6. 'Poetics' is a famous critical work by _____.
 7. Alexander Pope was a _____.
 8. _____ deals with class relations and social conflicts.
 9. Sonnet has _____ lines with iambic pentameter.
 10. _____ has a serious action depicting falls of a noble man.
- (Structural, essayist, three, Aristotle, ambiguity, sociological, tragedy, fourteen, Marxist Criticism, Neo-classicist.)

(B) COMPLETE THE SENTENCES CHOOSING APPROPRIATE OPTIONS FROM THOSE GIVEN BELOW.

1. Elegy is a lyric of _____.
(a) Joy (b) Love (c) Lament (d) Sorrow
2. 'Ode to Nightingale' is a famous ode by _____.
(a) P. B. Shelley (b) Lord Byron
(c) John Keats (d) William Wordsworth
3. Dr. Johnson defined essay as _____.
(a) a compact composition (b) a rational peace of prose
(c) a lyrical prose peace (d) a loose sally of mind
4. Shakespeare's comedies are called _____.
(a) comedy of humour (b) romantic comedy
(c) comedy of satire (d) comedy of manner
5. Sonnet originated in _____.
(a) Italy (b) England (c) France (d) Greece

6. _____ can be defined as short story in verse.
(a) Elegy (b) Ballad (c) Lyric (d) Sonnet
7. Aristotle was the first critic of the _____ school of thought.
(a) expressive (b) structural (c) constructive (d) poetical

1.4 KEY WORDS

Literature : a body of written material

Oral Literature : literature that passes from one generation to another orally

Aesthetic : concerned with beauty or appreciation of beauty

Craftsmanship : a skill in particular craft or artistry

Authenticity : faithfulness to one's own experiences

Syntax : the arrangements of words and phrases

Metaphor : a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is appraised to an object or action to which it is not literally appreciable

Literary Studies : The study, evaluation and interpretation of literature

Fictionality : the quality of being fictional

Ambiguity : the quality of being open to more than one interpretation

Literary criticism : formal study and discussion of works of literature which involves judging and evaluating the works of art.

1.5 LET US SUM UP

In this unit, we have dealt with definitions of literature, nature of literature, element of literature, and the role of language in literature. We have also discussed literary theories in brief with critical approaches to the study of literature.

We have offered an overview of major literary genres with examples of related notable works. You are advised to read *An Introduction to Study of Literature* by W. H. Hudson, *The Theory of Literature* by Rene Wellek and Austin Warren. In depth study of literary theories will help you to understand literary works better.

1.6 BOOKS SUGGESTED

1. Mario Klarer. *An Introduction to Literary Studies*. Routledge, 2013
2. William Henry Hudson. *An Introduction to the study of Literature*. Rupa Publication India, 2015.
3. R. A. Scott-James. *The Making of Literature*. Allied Publishers Ltd. 2000(Edition).
4. Edgar V. Roberts. *Writing about Literature*. Prentice Hall, 1995 (Edition).
5. Praveen K. Thaker. *Appreciating English Poetry*. Orient Blackswan, 1999 (Edition).

6. M. H. Abrams. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. Macmillan India Ltd. 1998 (Edition).
7. A. C. Hooper. *An Introduction to the study of Language and Literature*. Orient Longman, 1998 (Edition).

**Definition, Meaning and
Nature of Literature and
Literary Studies**

ANSWERS

(A) 1. Essayist 4. Three 7. Neo-Classical 10. Tragedy	2. Ambiguity 5. Structural 8. Marxist-Criticism	3. Sociological 6. Aristotle 9. Fourteen
(B) 1. (c) 6. (b)	2. (c) 7. (c)	3. (d) 4. (b) 5. (a)

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