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7.0 OBJECTIVES

The objective of this unit is to introduce you to the literary history with major literary periods and movements. The words literary age/era, literary periods and literary movements have different shades of meaning, though all of them refer to ‘chunks’ of time in history of literature.

Another important objective is to give you a brief introduction to English as well as American Literary periods and literary movements. History of literature is always connected with political, social and cultural events and changes. Literature is shaped by literary, cultural and political

changes like industrialism, wars, and political events like the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution and so on.

The objective of the unit will be how other political, cultural, economic and social factors affect literature and how literature affects them.

7.1 INTRODUCTION

History of literature is important for the study on the part of the students of literature because it will create the desire in the students to read the best books of literature. The other important aim of history of literature is to interpret literature both textually and from historical point of view. It shows how great books reflect the spirit of the age and the national spirit. The study of history of literature also shows how literature of a particular language grew and underwent changes.

In the history of literature, the following aspects are generally introduced:

- 1) Brief summary of historical events and social conditions of a particular period.
- 2) Brief study of literary epochs showing how these epochs were affected by previous epochs and how they influenced the literary epochs that followed them.
- 3) Brief, summarized biography of important writer depicting how he tried and succeeded as a writer, and how he was influenced by his age and how he influenced his age.
- 4) Brief introduction to major works of writers and how poets with critical estimate of these works.
- 5) History of literature is divided into periods of ages. Ages or eras indicate larger span of time. Periods are usually named after political events and ruler and also authors.
- 6) In the history of literature, we find several important literary movements that differ from prevalent literary scene. In literary movements, a group of artists joins together to pursue a certain common cause for same period of time. They have a specific objective in mind when they unite and work together for some common goals like political ideology, artistic style, emphasis on form or challenging prevalent literary norms and beliefs.

For example, the Irish Movement took place in the late 19th and early 20th century. It was closely associated with nationalism and revival of Irish Cultural heritage.

7.2 WHAT IS LITERARY MOVEMENTS

In art history, the words like, era, age, period and movement are frequently used. There are no fixed definitions of these terms but they all refer to “historic chunk of time”. In all these terms, common characteristics of literature of a particular period are signified.

History of any art or science is divided into periods or ages. Era or age is a larger chunk that refers to certain block of time. A period is usually

shorter than an era. However, very often 'era' and 'period' are used interchangeably.

According to Oxford Dictionary era is "a long and distinct period of history". It is a span of time defined for the purpose of chronology or historiography. 'period' can be defined as a portion of time or length of time of a particular society which is remembered for a particular activity or situation.

Movement in art refers to certain tendency or style in art followed by a group of artists. An art movement is a common philosophy or goal followed by a group of artists during a certain period of time e.g. Impressionism, The Aesthetic Movement, and The Irish Movement etc.

In any art or literary movement, arts join together to pursue some common goals about style, political ideology or rejection of prevalent political, cultural ideology. In art or literary movements, artists support one another in their artistic efforts and oppose prevalent concepts of art. Movements are usually short lived as with the passage of time, the artists drift apart leaving aside their original goal. However the impact of movements change scenario of art or literature to a certain extent.

Literary movement is about thematic or structural change brought about by a group of artists influencing other writers, often creating other movements successively. Let us take an example of English Romantic Movement which is believed to have begun with the publication of the "Lyrical Ballads" in 1798. In fact it was not sudden outburst but gradual growth. The Romantic Literature existed from old time. The Romantic spirit was at its exuberance in the Elizabethan literature. The major characteristics of romanticism are imaginations, emotions, sense of wonder, curiosity and mystery.

However, the romantic spirit declined in the age of pope, also known as the Augustan Age. The Augustan Age literature was quite rational, intellectual and formal in nature. It was almost devoid of imagination and emotions. It dealt with upper class people of London, and for Augustan poets nature had no place in their poetry. Therefore the Romantic movements began as a reaction against the dry intellectuality and artificiality of the Pseudo-classicists. "Return to Nature" became the slogan of Romantic Revival.

The Aesthetic movement began as a reaction against the Victorian emphasis on morality and priggish orthodoxy. The founder of the Aesthetic Movement in England was Walter Peter (1839-1894). The Aesthetic Movement propagated the theory that Art has no other purpose; art is for art's sake only. The French symbolists Baudelaire, Verlaine, Rimbaud and Mallarme made huge impact on Aesthetic Movement. In England the prominent followers of aestheticism were A.C.Swinburne, Walter Peter and Oscar Wild. These examples show that literary or art movements often take place as a reaction against the prevalent literary or aesthetic concepts.

7.3 DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LITERARY PERIODS AND LITERARY MOVEMENTS

Both literary periods and literary movements are the parts of Literary History. Period is a portion or chunk of time in literary history. In literary history, historical classification takes place as periods. The act of periodization is flexible and subject to change if new data is discovered. Period is shorter than era, though 'era' and 'period' are often employed interchangeably.

Period in literary history is generally related to political rule in a certain geographical territory. E.g. Edwardian Period. Literary movement refers to certain tendency or style followed by a group of artists. These artists have common goal about political ideology, style, form, the purpose of literature etc. These artists unite during a specific period of time and propagate their concept of art and literature supporting the group. Very often literary period is marked by literary movement.

For Example, Romantic Movement which started in 1798 in the beginning of Romantic Period (1798-1860) Major literary movements in **English Literature are as follows:**

1. Metaphysical Poetry
2. The Augustan Period (Neo-Classical Movement)
3. The Romantic Movement
4. American Romanticism
5. Pre-Raphaelites
6. Transcendentalism
7. Realism
8. Naturalism
9. Symbolism
10. Stream of Consciousness
11. Irish Movement
12. Modernism
13. Dadaism
14. War Poets
15. Imagism
16. Harlem Renaissance (America)
17. Surrealism
18. Post-modernism
19. Beat Poets
20. Magic Realism
21. Post-Colonialism

Major literary periods in English Literature are as follows:

1. Anglo-Saxon Period (450-1066)
2. Middle English Period (1066-1500)
3. The Renaissance (1500-1600)
4. The Neo-Classical Period (1660-1785)

5. The Romantic Period (1798-1860)
6. The Victorian Period (1832-1901)
7. The Edwardian period (1901-1914)
8. The Georgian Period (1914-1945)
9. The Modern and Post Modern Period (1945 to present)

The major literary periods in American literature are:

1. Colonial Period (1607-1776)
2. The Revolutionary Age (1765-1790)
3. The Early National Period (1775-1828)
4. The Age of Transcendentalism (1828-1865)
5. The Realistic Period (1865-1900)
6. The Naturalistic Period (1900-1914)
7. American Modernist Period (1914-1939)
8. The Contemporary Period (1939-present)
9. Post Modernism (1950-present)

7.4 OVERVIEW OF LITERARY PERIODS & MOVEMENTS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

1. Old English Period: Old English Period is reflected to as Anglo-Saxon literature. It was produced before the Norman Conquest in 1066. It started after the invasion of Celtic England by Germanic tribes in the first half of the fifth century. It developed from oral tradition and in the 8th century, it began to be written in the vernacular Anglo-Saxon (Old English). Caedmon and Cynewulf were two important poets of the old English period. The old English poetry is classified in to Natural and Christian poetry. Beowulf is an early epic poem which consists of myths and legends from various sources.

2. The Middle English Period: This period consists of literature produced during the period between Norman Conquest in 1066 to 1500. The standard literary language emerged from the dialect of London area. It was recognized as modern English. Before the second half of the 14th century, secular literature was produced. Geoffrey Chaucer is regarded as the Father of English poetry. His work The Canterbury Tales presents a vivid picture of his times.

The Middle English period was a transition from the middle ages to modern time reflecting decay and growth. It was the age of narrative, lyrical and balladic poetry.

3. The Renaissance: The Renaissance is a French word which means rebirth, revival and reawaking. It was the revival of classical Greek art and literature which begun in Italy and then spread to England. Printing press was invented in Germany and several scientific inventions and geographical discoveries took place during the last year of 15th century and the beginning of 16th century. First time in the history of mankind, man was placed as the center of the universe.

The English Renaissance began with the ascent of the house of Tudor to the English throne in 1485. However literary Renaissance in England began with English humanist like Thomas More and Sir Thomas Wyatt.

The Renaissance can be divided into four sub periods -The Elizabethan Age, The Jacobean Age, the Caroline Age and commonwealth period or puritan Age. The Renaissance produced great dramatists, poets, essayist, humanist and scientists. We shall discuss in detail while discussing major movements in English literary history.

4. The Neo-Classical Period: the Neo-classical period was influenced by contemporary French literature. The Neo-classical literature is known for its wit, satire and refinement. Formal perfection, depiction of urban life, artificiality, imitation of the ancient classical masters and philosophical reflections are the characteristics of the Neo-classical literature. It was the age of satire and argumentative and reflective poetry. This period is also divided into the Restoration period, the Augustan Age and the Age of Sensibility.

During the Reformation, comedy of manners, prose and satiric poetry were predominant forms of literary writing. John Dryden was one of the major writers and critics of the period. The Augustan Age was the age of Pseudo-classicism pioneered by Alexander Pope. It was period of scouting satire. Swift Defoe and Pope were the major writers of the age. The Age of Sensibility is also called the age of Johnson who dominated the period through his pedantic scholarship and knowledge. It was also the period of sentimental comedy and novels. Samuel Richardson, Henry Fielding, Oliver Goldsmith and Sheridan were the notable literary figures of the period.

5. The Romantic Period: The Romantic Period began in the late 18th century and flourished during the first half of 19th century. The poets of the Age were amply influenced by the French Revolution and its slogan of Liberty, equality and Fraternity. The romantic was a strong rejection of Pseudo classical poetry and its artificiality. Return to nature, emotions, imaginations, subjectivity, mystery and beauty of the universe, sensuousness, love for freedom, escape into past (Particularly in the Medievalism) are the prominent characteristics of the Romantic Movements.

William Blake, William Wordsworth, S.T. Coleridge, Lord Byron, John Keats and P.B.Shelley were the most remarkable poets of the Age. The Romantic Movement and the Romantic Literature made a huge impact on literature, literary forms and literary theory of the contemporary as well as succeeding periods. The English Romantic Movement was both a revolt as well as a revival. It was revolt against 18th century Pseudo-classicism and the revival of romantic traditions of earlier poets like Shakespeare and Spenser. It was also the period of gothic novels. Walter Scott wrote historical novels with Scottish background and John Austin

wrote domestic novels which made her one of the greatest and the most popular novelist in English Literature.

6. The Victorian Period: The Victorian Period began with the crowning of Queen Victoria to the throne in 1837. The Victorian Period is divided into ‘Early Victorians’ and ‘Late Victorians’. The Victorian literature deals with contemporary political, social and cultural issues. It was the period of development of science, industries and middle class people. It was also the age of social reform and compromise between science and religion, urban and rural, love and marriage, nature and culture etc. Charles Darwin’s Theory of Evolution made intellectuals question the existence of God.

Alfred Tennyson, Robert Browning, Matthew Arnold, Carlyle, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Thackeray, Bronte Sisters were the remarkable literary figures of the period. Within the Victorian Period, The Pre-Raphaelite Movement and the Movement of Aestheticism and Decadence took place.

7. Edward Period: Queen Victoria died in 1901. The Edwardian Period spans from 1901 to 1914, the beginning of the First World War. During this period, the British Empire had its heyday and people lived in luxury. The writers like G.B.Shaw, H.G.Wells and others attacked social injustice and exploitative attitude of the upper class people. The major literary figures of the period were W.B.Yeats, Rudyard Kipling, Henry James and E.M.Forster.

8. The Georgian Period: This period refers to the period when England was ruled by George V (1910-36). Many Writers of the Edward Period continued to write in this period also. Rupert Brooke, Wilfred Owen, Edmund Blunden, Robert Graves and Siegfried Sassoon wrote war poetry depicting tragedy of war and patriotic spirit.

9. Modern and Post-modern Period: Modern Period began with the beginning of the First World War. During 1920’s the poets focused more on form and style. They experimented with literary genres. The major poets of the period are W.B.Yeats, T.S.Eliot, Ezra Pound and Seamus Heaney. T.S.Eliot called poetry “a sort of inspired mathematics”

During modern and Post-modern periods, several movements like imagism, surrealism, the apocalyptic movement took place. Feminist poetry and novels also emerged during this period. Joseph Conrad, D.H. Lawrence, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce and Dorothy Richardson were the prominent novelists of the period. Stream of Consciousness novels depicted inner drama of mind. There were also some novelists who depicted social problems of their contemporary period in their novels. G.B. Shaw and Galsworthy wrote problem plays portraying political and social issues. George Orwell wrote novels expressing the evils of autocracy and communism. During the period, there was also revival of Irish drama and folk literature under the leadership of W.B.Yeats. In Post-modern period, many philosophical and critical movements like

structuralism, formalism, gynocriticism, magic realism, existentialism, post-colonialism and cultural studies took place. Postmodern period started with the end of World War in 1945 and it still continuous.

7.5 OVERVIEW OF LITERARY PERIODS & MOVEMENTS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

1. The Colonial Period: The Colonial Period spans between the first settlements as Jamestown to the outbreak of the Revolution. The writings of the periods were primarily on religion and historical themes. Cotton Mather, Benjamin Franklin and Anne Bradstreet were notable writers of the period.

2. The Revolutionary Age (1765-1790): Thomas Jefferson wrote, “The Declaration of Independence” in 1781 and Thomas Paine Penned “Common Sense” the Constitution of the USA was drafted in 1788. This period was the period of shaping American Identity.

3. The Early National Period (1775-1828): It was the period of ‘American’ Literature which distinguished itself from the English Literature. The American Writers wrote in the English style but used American themes, setting and characters. Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper and Edgar Allan Poe were the most recognized writers of the period.

4. The Age of Transcendentalism (1828-1865): This period is also called American Romantic Period or American Renaissance. The writers of the period produced original excellent works with new ideas. R.W. Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, H.W.Longfellow, Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman were the most notable writers and poets of the periods.

5. The Realistic Period (1865-1900): After the Civil War the American Literature entered into Realistic period. Mark Twain, Harry James and Bret Harte were the important writers of the period.

6. Naturalistic Period: (1900-1914): This was the period of Naturalism which depicts realistic even more minutely. It focuses on the common place with scientific objectivity. Stephen Crane, Jack London and Theodore Dreiser were the major American Naturalists.

7. American Modernist Period (1914-1939): The Great Depression marked the end of the American Modernist Period. The period consisted sub periods like The Harlem Renaissance, The Jazz Age, The Lost Generation etc. T.S.Eliot, Ezra Pound, Hemingway, William Faulkner and Steinbeck were notable writers of the period.

8. The Contemporary Period (1939-present): The Contemporary period started in 1939, the beginning of the World War II. John Updike, Eudora Welty, Sylvia Plath, Arthur Miller, Toni Morrison were the important writers of the period. Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac are called the Beat Writers. The Beat movement and Hippie movement took place after 1950, mainly in the sixties and the beginning of the seventies.

9. Post-Modernist Period (1950-present): Post-modernism started in 1950 and it still goes on. Writings of the period are marked by counter-culture writing. Many critical theories took place during this period.

7.6 MAJOR LITERARY MOVEMENTS THEIR CHARACTERISTICS AND IMPACT ON LITERATURE

The Renaissance was the turning point in the history of Europe, mainly in England. The Word ‘Renaissance’ means rebirth and revival of the ancient Greek and Roman Culture. Secular outlook came into the Centre stage focusing on humanistic approach. For the first time in the history of mankind, humanism replaced religious faith and rituals. Humanism was a reaction against Roman Church that dominated the lives of the people. The fall of Constantinople led many Greek Scholars to flee to Italy and seek shelter there with precious manuscripts of ancients’ writers. The study of classical masterpieces fired the imagination of Italian poets and writers. Soon, this fire spread to England and other European countries.

The characteristics of the Renaissance period are as follows:

1. Scientific and artistic revival 2. Invention of Printing Press 3. Scientific invention and geographical discoveries 4. Revival of Classical Learning 5. The Spurt of translations 6. Secular Outlook 7. Humanism 8. Reformation 9. The Rise of Drama, Prose Writings and Sonnets. Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Christopher Marlow and University Wits contributed to drama remarkably. Edmund Spenser was a major poet with romantic attitude. Francis Bacon wrote essays expressing pragmatic philosophy of life. Thomas More’s Utopia was amply influenced by Plato’s idea state-Republic. Sir Thomas Wyatt and the Earl of Surrey introduced ‘sonnet’ into England and Sir Philip Sidney and William Shakespeare nurtured the form introducing certain changes in the English sonnet.

Now let us discuss major literary movements, their characteristics and their impact on literature.

1. Metaphysical Poetry: The poetry of John Donne and his followers is known as Metaphysical poets. Dryden had remarked that Donne’s poetry “affects metaphysics”. Later, Dr. Johnson re-affirmed this fact and called them metaphysical poets. The word metaphysics means “beyond physical nature”. Donne’s poetry does not deal with spiritual themes but there is intellectual analysis of emotions and experience in his poetry.

Donne’s poetry is metaphysical in technique and style rather than content. The characteristics of metaphysical poetry are as follows:

- Intellectual tone
- Fusion of emotion and intellect
- The use of conceits which are aligning of the two opposite or contradictory elements.
- Argumentative and analytical

- Expressive use of figure of speech with farfetched similes and metaphors.
- Complex and obscure
- The use of new scientific/ technical vocabulary
- Unusual rhythm and outrageous imagery
- Metaphysical wit which puts together apparently unlike, dissimilar things.

Major poets of metaphysical poetry were John Donne, George Herbert, Richard Crashaw, Henry Vaughan and Thomas Traherne. Metaphysical Poetry made impact on literature adding intellectual element in poetry. In 1921, T.S.Eliot discussed how the metaphysical poets fused reason with passion in his renowned essay “The Metaphysical Poets”.

2. Neo-Classical Movement: The period between 1660 and 1789 is called the Augustan Age, the Neo-Classical Age, and Pseudo-classical Age. The Restoration of King Charles II marked the birth of a new world restoring peace and order. These events had tremendous impact on literature and philosophy of the period. It was the age of new awareness of social realism. The period was amply influenced by French models like Racine, Moliere, Corneille etc. Boileau was the greatest French writer who influenced Neo-classical literature in England.

The important characteristics of Neo-Classical period were as follows:

- Nature methodized. Depiction of nature in artificial manner. Alexander Pope focused on national human nature rather than Nature.
- Emphasis on formal perfection
- Sharp rise of satiric writings
- The portrayal of court life and urban clubs and cafes.
- Lack of emotions and imaginations
- Imitation of ancient classical masters, especially the French Classicists.
- Philosophical and reflective poetry
- The rise of middle class and periodical essays.
- The use of heroic couplet (Two Iambic Pentameter lines with rhyme)
- The growth of prose, pamphlets and periodicals.
- The rise of the comedy of manners

The major literary figures of the period were Dryden, Pope, Congreve, Wycherley, Addison, Steele, Defoe, Swift, Henry Fielding, Samuel Richardson, Smollett, Sterne and Dr. Johnson.

The Neo-Classical made a huge impact on the literature and the life of the people. The dry and dreary literature of the period generated reaction against it giving rise to pre-romantic poetry. The Pre-Romantic movement was aided by the publication of Bishop Percy’s ‘The Reliques of Ancient English Poetry (1765). Thomas Gray, Collins, and Oliver Goldsmith were the pioneers of Pre-Romantic Movement.

3. The Romantic Movement: The use of romanticism can be seen in the context of historical and philosophical change in English social life. A number of social reform acts were passed during the 19th century. The French Revolution (1789) had a great effect on thoughts and activities all over Europe. Thinkers like Rousseau and Godwin provided slogans like “Return to Nature” and “Liberty Equality and Fraternity”. They made the huge effects on the minds of Wordsworth, Coleridge and Shelley. The Romantic poets often challenged the traditional view of God and religion recognizing the voice of God within all human beings.

The salient features of romanticism are as followed:

1 Revolt against Pseudo-classicism 2. Love for nature 3. Medievalism 4. Spontaneity in Poetry 5. Emotional Outburst 6. Predominance of Imagination 7. Love for the rustic and common people. 8. Lyrical Intensity 9. Subjectivity 10. Truth is beauty and beauty is truth 11. Sense of wonder 12. The use of the language of common men for poetry 12. Sensuousness 13. Mystical and supernatural touch 14. Variety of poetry (lyrics, ode, sonnets, elegies, epic, fragment etc)

William Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Robert Southey, Shelley, Walter Scott, Keats and Byron were the major romantic poets. These romantic poets differed from one another and they focused on their individual passion for example, Wordsworth on nature, Coleridge on supernatural, Shelley on imagination and platonic idealism, Keats on beauty and sensuousness, and Byron on freedom and liberty.

William Wordsworth, S.T. Coleridge and P.B. Shelley were influenced by the French Revolution but very soon they were disillusioned by bloody path of subjugation of other weaker countries.

It was during this period that the Gothic and historical novels were written by Radcliffe and Walter Scott. Jane Austin remains unaffected by political happenings and wrote beautiful domestic novels that still mesmerize the readers. The influence of the Romantic poets has still persisted in modern poetry and other literary forms in English literature and other literatures of the world.

4. American Romanticism: The American Romantic Period which lasted from about 1830 to 1870 was the time of rapid expansion and growth of the United States of America. It ignited intuition, imagination and individualism in literature. It was the first full-fledged literary movement in the US. The romantic poets of the period were influenced by the British romantic poets. The characteristics of American Romanticism are 1. Emphasis on imagination 2. Emotional outburst 3. Love for nature 4. Mysticism 5. Picturesque quality 5. Sensuousness 6. Wonder and mystery 7. Individualism 8. Interest in past especially medieval 9. Sympathy for common man 10. Equality 11. Transcendentalism 12. Democracy and humanism

Major writers of American Romanticism are R.W.Emerson, Henry Thoreau, Walt Whitman, Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Washington Irving, J.F. Cooper, E.A. Poe, H.W.Longfellow, Emily Dickinson, Harriet Beecher stowe etc.

5. Pre-Raphaelite Movement: Pre-Raphaelite movement originally belongs to painting initiated by D.G.Rossetti. It was a reaction against the preoccupation of the Victorian literature with morality and social problems. The reaction took the form of return to aesthetic ideas of Italian Painters before Raphael. Pre-Raphaelite poets were influenced by Italian painters before Raphael. Pre-Raphaelite poets were influenced by Italian Painters whose paintings had sensuous and spiritual qualities.

The important characteristics of Pre-Raphaelite movements are 1. Picturesque quality 2. Sensuousness 3. Medievalism 4. Fleshly school of poetry 5. Music and melody 6. Aestheticism (Art for Art's Sake) 7. The Worship of Beauty

Major Pre-Raphaelite poets were D.G.Rossetti, A.C. Swinburne, William Morris and Christina Rossetti. Originally, the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood was a group of painters, poets and critics founded in 1848 by William Holman Hunt, John Everett Millais and D.G.Rossetti. The brotherhood soon began to disperse and it disbanded after four years. However Pre-Raphaelite poetry continued its impact over two decades. It made significant influence on other arts, literature, crafts and design. It extended its impact on symbolism in twentieth century.

6. Transcendentalism: Transcendentalism was an American literary movement that begun in 1830's which was heavily influenced by Goethe Kant, Wordsworth and S.T.Coleridge. The four main ideas espoused by transcendentalists were: self-reliance, individual conscience, intuition over reason and unity of all things in Nature. They also did not trust social and governmental institutions and their corrupting effects. R.W.Emerson, H.D.Thoreau, Bronson Alcott and Margaret Fuller formed a club called The Transcendental Club. They published a periodical called The Dial. They became huge proponents of progressive reform, gender equality and human rights in general. Transcendentalism was deeply rooted in faith and spirituality. The leaders of the movements were influenced by the vedantic philosophy of India, Hinduism, Islam and Quaker faith. It was also influenced by the doctrine of Unitarian church. Transcendentalism influenced Herman Melville, Hawthorne and Mark Twain abundantly.

7. Realism: Realism can be defined as the faithful representation of reality. It is a literary technique practiced by many schools of writing. In English literature, realism co-existed with Victorianism. The realistic novel was more than a journalistic reporting with objective representation of facts. Characteristics of realistic movement are as follows: 1. Omniscient narration 2. Detailed representation of reality 3. Transparent and simple language 4. Verisimilitude (exactness in

description) 5. Realism and novels are closely connected 6. Social critique 7. Insight into motives and actions of the Characters.

In English literature, there were social realistic novelists like, H.G.Wells, Arnold Bennett, Graham Greene, E.M.Forster, Somerset Maugham. G.B.Shaw, John Galsworthy, A.W.Pinero wrote realistic plays depicting contemporary social and political problems. American realism was a style in art, music and literature. It depicted contemporary social realities and the lives of the ordinary people. The movement begun in mid-19th century. W.D.Howells, Henry James, Mark Twain wrote fiction with accurate representation of American lives in various contexts.

8. Naturalism: naturalism is a literary genre that started as a movement in the late 19th century literature, film, theatre and art. It is kind of extreme realism. The term naturalism was coined by Emile Zola who defined it as a literary movement with deep observation and utterly realistic portrayal of reality. The characteristics of naturalism are detachment, impersonal tone, determinism, scientific attitude to life and universe etc. Naturalism started as a branch of literary realism. According to Frank Morris., realism was opposite of romanticism while naturalism was the mixture of the two. Naturalism suggests philosophical pessimism and portrays deterministic view of characters and their life. Naturalism holds the belief that natural forces pre-determine a character's actions and decisions.

John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath, The Open Boat by Stephen crane, The Awakening by Kate Chopin are the examples of naturalistic works. Naturalist did not last long as it produced blunt, dry and pessimistic literary works.

9. Symbolism: Symbolism, an artistic movement originated in the late 19th century was spread to painting and the theatre. It influenced the European and American literatures of the 20th century. Symbolism is an oblique way of communicating thoughts or feelings through symbols. The major symbolists were Mallarme, Verlaine, Rimbaud, Valery and others. Symbolist movement started as a revolt against rigid conventions in traditional French poetry. The symbolist poets conveyed the sense of mystery of life. Through enchanting metaphors. There are traditional as well as personal symbols.

Arthur Symons wrote a book on titled The Symbolist Movement in Literature and dedicated it to W.B.Yeats. He called Yeats the chief representative of the movement in England. W.B.Yeats, Dylan Thomas, W.H.Auden and T.S.Eliot were the pioneering symbolist poets. The symbolist's movement influenced painting also. Gauguin, Van Gogh, Moreau, Redon were the painters who are regarded as notable symbolists. Maeterlinck in Belgium was a symbolist dramatist. The symbolists believed that deeper truths of existence can be expressed through symbols and myths only.

10. Stream of Consciousness: In 20th century, the theories of Psychoanalysis made impact on fiction writing. Some modern novelists regarded life not as a continuous flow but a series of separate experience and events. Virginia Woolf, James Joyce and Dorothy Richardson delved deep into the inner recesses of human consciousness. For them, human consciousness moved forward and backward. These writers were influenced by psychological theories of Carl Jung and Sigmund Freud. According to Freud, human psyche have two divisions-the conscious mind and the unconscious mind. The sub-conscious mind is free from control and repressive forces. The important traits of the stream of consciousness novel are depiction of mind in flux rather than character, evocative symbols, obsessive images, fading of plot-construction, rejection of the unities of time, place and order etc. The major works of the stream of consciousness are “Ulysses” by James Joyce”, “To the lighthouse” and “Mrs. Dalloway” by Virginia Woolf and “Pointed Roofs” by Dorothy Richardson.

11. Irish Movement: The Irish Dramatic Movements began in the last decade of the 19th century. It was a literary Renaissance especially in Drama. The Irish literary society was established and the pioneers of the movement began to deal with Irish material, setting and culture. It was in fact the part of National Movement for independence. In the beginning of the 20th century, W.B.Yeats, Lady Gregory and Maud Gonne started the Irish dramatic movement. They revived Irish drama which was highly poetic and imaginative. It was also a revolt against social play that dealt with social and political problems. G.B.Shaw and Galsworthy wrote plays with social concerns depicting social problems. The Irish Dramatic Movement revived the ancient Gaelic language and literature. It also revived Irish legends, folklore and depicted Irish life and characters. The pioneers of the movement used symbolic technique. The Irish literary society reconstructed the Abbey Theater which became a home of the society where Yeats, J.M.Synge and Lady Gregory met and discussed issues related to the movement. It played great role in reviving Irish culture and literature.

12. Modernism: Literary modernism emerged in England around 1910 as a reaction against Romanticism in the wake of the First World War. Modernist literature is characterized by anti-romanticism, concern with form, complexity, and intellectual slant, use of wit, irony, paradox and conceit. It is also characterized by stream of consciousness narration, focus on psychological investigation instead of focus on plot and blend of high and low language.

Modernism is divided into two pre-war and post-war. (Before 1914 and after 1958). Many movements and trends took place within modernist period like war poetry, imagism, Dadaism, Apocalyptic movement,

surrealism, stream of consciousness. It was the age of anxiety, interrogation and despair.

Thomas Hardy was the poet of early modernism whose poems are dark and pessimistic. T.S.Eliot is regarded as the father of modern poetry. His poem, The Waste Land deeply touched the British and the American audiences who identified themselves with the expression of sense of alienation, despair and meaninglessness in his poem. Modernism continued till World War II and affected literature, arts, and thought of period profoundly.

13. Dadaism: Dada was an art movement formed during the First World War in Zurich. It was a reaction to the horrors of war. Dada poetry and art are satirical and nonsensical in nature. The Dada artists aimed at destroying traditional values in art. Hans Arp wrote: “while guns rumbled in the distance, we sang, painted, made collages and wrote poems with all our might”. The founder of Dada was Hugo Ball, a writer who started magazine named “Dada”. The movement formed the basics of surrealism. The leading artists of the movement were Hans Arp, Marcel, Duchamp, and Kurt Schwitters.

The Characteristics of Dadaism are: 1. Sarcastic and nonsensical. 2. Never follow any known rules 3. Assembly, Collage and use of readymade objects. The movement was influenced by Abstraction and Expressionism and it influenced cubism and to a lesser extent, Futurism.

14. War Poetry: World War I (1914-18) was one of the most horrible events of the 20th century. More than 41 million people suffered casualties. Hundreds of poets wrote poetry on war and its tragic outcome. There were some soldiers poets who wrote about tragedy of war and patriotic spirit. The early poets often endorsed the cause of war and emphasized the notion of honour and patriotism. The late poets wrote poetry that expressed the anti-war attitude depicting horrors of war.

Rupert Brooke is one of the early soldier’s poets. In his life time-his patriotic poems were highly celebrated. Brooke died early in the war. Wilfred Owen and Isaac Rosenberg described the frantic and painful nature of French warfare. Injury became the major theme of war poetry. The trench poets questioned the idea of war, heroism and patriotism. The war poetry is a negation of Georgian poetry which celebrated the honor of war and patriotic spirit. For war poets of the late period, war was inhuman, brutal and the result of so called patriotism.

15. Imagism: imagism was a movement in early 20th century Anglo-American poetry. It was born in England and America as a reaction against romanticism and Victorian poetry. It emphasized simplicity, clarity of expression and the precision through the use of images. Ezra Pound is regarded as the founder of the imagism. Pound adapted Hulme’s ideas on poetry for his imagist movement. Imagist is a strand of modernism which aimed at replacing abstractions with concrete images. Pound defined image as the presentation of “an intellectual and emotional complex in an instant of time”. The characteristics of imagism are 1.

Direct treatment of “the thing”. 2. Musical quality 3. No rhyming pattern 4. Free verse 5. Exactness 6. Precision 7. Compression 8 freedom in choice of subject 9. Suggest rather than to offer complete sentence 10. To avoid cliché.

Ezra Pound, Amy Lowell, Carl Sandburg, William Carlos Williams, Hilda Doolittle, are the prominent poets of the imagist movement. Though the movement did not last long, imagism deeply influenced modernist poetry in English.

16. Harlem Renaissances in America: in early part of the 20th century, African Americans in America faced racism, violence and legal segregation. They moved to northern states in large numbers and settled in Harlem area in New York. There was a creative and intellectual surge in Harlem. It was a flowering of Negro Renaissance. It is also known as Negro Movements or the Negro Renaissance. It is said to have begun in the late 1910's and ended in 1930.

The Harlem Renaissance was characterized by lyricism, formal innovation and celebration of African American identity. The major literary figures are Langston Hughes, Jean Toomer, Arna Bontemps, Countee Cullen, Angelina Weld Grimke, Claude Mckay, Nella Larsen, James Weldon Johnson, Zora Neale Hurston etc. the Harlem Renaissance made impact on civil rights movement of the late 1940's and early 1950's located in the north of Central Park, Harlem became a center of artistic revolution. Harlem Renaissance was profoundly affected by primitivism and Freudian psychology. It affected African American music like 1922 and Blues.

17. Surrealism: Surrealism is a cultural movement that began in the early 1920's. It is best known for its visual art-work and writings. It flourished in Europe between World War I and II. It grew out of Dada movement which produced anti-art works defying reason. Surrealism emphasized positive expression reuniting consciousness and unconsciousness realms of experience and dream and fantasy. Andre Breton published ‘The Surrealist Manifesto’ in 1924. Characteristics of Surrealism are –elements of surprise, unexpected juxtaposition, distortions of reality, dream like subject matter, psychological rather than logical, delving deep into the sub consciousness, bizarre and weird portrayal of reality.

The major poets, painters and artists of the movement were Salvador Dali, Rene Magritte, Pablo Picasso, Andre Breton and Joan Miro. Surrealism was amply influenced by the writings of Sigmund Freud and his concept of conscious, sub-conscious and unconscious mind. Surrealism was a revolution against the constraints of the national mind and its oppressive influence.

18. Post-Modernism: Post modernism came into performance after the end of the World War II. It is a form of literature which relies on fragmentation, paradox, unrealistic plots, unreliable narrators, parody, dark humour, magic realism and so on. The Postmodern writers reject

outright meanings and claim that there is a possibility of multiple meanings in their works. They also reject the distinctions between different genres and forms of writing. The postmodern writers often paste different styles and ideas which they all pastiche. The other important characteristics of postmodern literature are intersexuality metafiction, non-linear narrative technique, magic realism, the mixing of actual historical events with fictional events, reader involvement etc.

Post modern literature serves as a reaction to the supposed stylistic and ideological limitations of modernist literature. Post-modernist writers have been influenced by post-modern philosophy and various contemporary movements. Major post-modern writers are Thomas Pynchon, Don DeLillo, Kurt Vonnegut, Jorge Luis Borges, Samuel Beckett, Vladimir Nabokov, Zadie Smith, David Foster Wallace and so on.

19. Beat Poetry: Beat poetry evolved during 1940's in New York City and San Francisco became the heart of the movement in 1950's. At the end of World War II, poets like Allen Ginsberg, Gary Snyder, Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Gregory Corso questioned mainstream politics and culture. The main features of the movement were: battle against social conformity, rejection of literary traditions, the use of drugs to achieve higher consciousness, meditation, interest in Buddhism etc.

Allen Ginsberg's first book, Howl and other Poems is regarded as the representative of the Beat poets. Ferlinghetti's press published "Howl" and he was brought to trial the next year on charges of obscenity. The judge's verdict did not declare it obscene and this brought national attention to Ginsberg and Beat Poets. Other Beat Poets were Diane di Prima, Neal Cassady, Anne Waldman, Michael McClure, Jack Kerouac and so on. Beat generation was criticized for its sexual deviancy, illicit drug use and anti-intellectual stance. The hippie movement of the 1960's also owed a great debt to Beat generation. However, the Beat generation was more educated and sophisticated than they seemed at a first glance.

20. Magic Realism: Magic realism is a genre of narrative fiction and more broadly, literature, painting, film and theatre etc. in the magical realism, where the ordinary turns into extraordinary and the magical becomes the commonplace. It is also known as marvelous realism or fantastic realism. It is not merely a style or a genre but a way of questioning the nature of reality. In fiction plays or films factual narratives are far flung fantasies are combined to reveal insights about human nature and the world in general. Scholars have identified elements of magical realism in Emily Bronte's "Wuthering Heights" and Kafka's "The Metamorphosis". The movement began in Latin America which included the Hispanic writers like Isabel Allende, Miguel Angel Asturias, Laura Esquivel, Elena Garro, Gabriel Marquez etc. Today, magical realism is seen as an intellectual trend. The characteristic of magical realism are as follows: 1. Situations and incidents defy logic 2. The use of myths and legends 3. Historic context 4. Societal concerns 5 Distorted

time and sequence 6. Real world setting 7. Matter of fact tone 8. Blending of naturalistic techniques with the Surreal and the supernatural 9. Unreal elements play part in realistic environment. 10. The ordinary as miraculous and the miraculous as ordinary.

Literary magic realism originated in Latin America and then spread to Paris and Berlin in Europe. The writers of the magic realism were influenced by the art movement of the time. They influenced writers of other countries such as Salman Rushdie of India and Nigerian novelist Ben Okri. “One Hundred Years of Solitude”. (1967) by Gabriel Garcia Marquez is considered a milestone in magic realism.

21. Post-Colonialism: Post colonialism and post-colonial studies is the academic study of cultural legacy of colonialism and imperialism. It is the historical period that represents the aftermath of western colonialism or imperialism. The term post-colonialism sometimes used to refer to the struggles of indigenous people in many parts of the world in the early part of 21st century. Fanon in his book “The Wretched of the Earth” discussed material and psyche-logical consequences of colonialism. His works emphasized the complex relation between imperialism and nationalism which reminded a critical focus of most of the post-colonial writings.

The characteristics of post-colonial writings are as follows: 1. The use of native language by the writers 2. Rewriting history 3. Valorization of cultural identity 4. Nationhood and nationalism. 5. Understanding of Metanarrative 6. Colonial discourse 7. Decolonization struggles 8. Challenging stereotypes.

Some of the prominent themes of Post-colonial literature are: 1. Reasserting the identity of indigenous culture. 2. Revisiting and revising colonial history. 3. Depiction of people and their lives centered by colonialism. 4. Interrogating colonial past 5. Cultural alienation 6. Creation of mimic men 7. Negritude, feminism, dalitism and queer. 8. Hybridity 9. Diaspora.

Major post-colonial writers and theorist are Homi.K.Bhabha, Edward Said, Frantz Fanon, Gayatri Spivak, Mahasweta Devi, Chinua Achebe, Salman Rushdie, Jean Rhys, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Derek Walcott, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Ben Okri, etc. Things Fall Apart, Wide Sargasso Sea, The God of Small Things, Midnight’s Children, Heart of Darkness, are the popular Post-Colonial works. Post-Colonialism influenced Italian English writers and African Writers who revisited colonial past, rewriting history in a dispassionate manner. They tried to free themselves from colonial hangover and examined their native, indigenous culture and traditions in an unbiased way.

7.7 LET US SUM UP

In this unit, we had a glimpse of major literary periods and movements in English and American Literature. Literary periods and literary periods are the part of history of literature. Literary periods are generally related to political rule in a particular geographical territory while literary

movements refer to certain tendency or style followed by group of artists. Very often several movements-coexisted during certain period. In literary movements, the artists join together with a common goal about political ideology, style, form, the purpose of art and literature soon.

We have discussed all important movements briefly. You can study them in detail referring to related references books or interest.

7.8 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Match the Following

A	B
1. Neo Classicism	a.
John Donne	
2. Romantic Revival	b.
Alexander Pope	
3. The Victorian Period	c.
Charles Darwin	
4. Transcendentalism	d.
A.C.Swinburne	
5. Metaphysical Poetry	e.
William Wordsworth	
6. Pre-Raphaelite Movement	f.
Emile Zola	
7. Naturalism	g.
Hans Arp	
8. Symbolist Movement	h.
W.B.Yeats	
9. Dadaism	i.
Mallarme	
10. Irish Movement	j.
Alferd Tennyson	
	k.
R.W.Emerson	

Choose the correct options from those given below (MCQ)

- Metaphysical poetry was _____ in nature
(a) Spiritual (b) analytical (c) emotional (d) imaginative
- Neo-Classical period is also called _____
A Victorian age (b) Georgian age (c) Augustan age (d) romantic age
- Walter Scott wrote _____ novels.
(a). Regional (b). Historical (c). Romantic (d). Urban
- pre-Raphaelite movement was initiated by _____
(a). A.C.Swineburne (b). Christina Rossetti
(c). D.G.Rosetti (d). William Morris
- Transcendentalism was deeply influenced by _____
(a). Goethe (b). Dante (c). Shakespeare (d). Milton
- Naturalism was kind of _____

- (a). Extreme romanticism (b). Extreme realism
 (c). Extreme emotionalism (d). extreme imagination
7. Dadaism originated in _____
 (a). berlin (b). Paris (c). London (d). Zurich.
8. Harlem Renaissance was the flowering of _____
 (a). American Literature (b). Negro Literature
 (c). Hispanic Literature (d). French Literature
9. _____ published “The Sureealist Manifesto” in 1924.
 (a). Emile Zola (b). Mallarme (c). Hans Arp (d). Andre Breton
10. “One Hundred Years of Sollitude” by Gabriel Marquez is the example of _____
 (a). Surrealism, (b). magic realism (c). transcendentalism (d). naturalism

Write short notes on following topics.

1. Difference between literary periods and literary movement
2. Symbolism
3. Dadaism
4. Beat Poetry
5. Post-colonialism

7.9 BOOKS SUGGESTED (REFERENCE/WEBSITES)

- W.J. Long. English Literature Atlantic Publishers, New Delhi.
- W.J. Long Outlines of English and American Literature 2017 Forgiven Books, 2017.
- Helene Henderson and Jay .P.Pederson. Twentieth Century Literature Movements Dictionary, Omnigraphics Inc. 1999.
- Margaret Drabble, The Oxford Companion to English Literature. Oxford University Press: New Yourk, 2000.
- Rene Welleck and Austin Warren. Theory of Literature Hartcourt, Brace and Company, 1984
- Renr Welleck A History of Modern Criticism Jonthan Cape, London. 1986
- Internet References/Websites: Literary History, Literary Criticism, The Internet Public Library, Britanica.com.

Answers of Objective Questions

Answer to Match Following

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10
B	E	J	K	a	D	F	I	G	h

Answer of Mcq

11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
b	c	b	c	a	b	d	b	d	b