



LITERATURE

**THEORY, PHILOSOPHICAL THOUGHT,
AND APPROACHES TO LITERARY STUDY**

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PREFACE

We thank God Almighty for His compassion and mercy in allowing us to complete this book. The creation of this book is the result of the thoughts of the writers and editors entitled "**LITERATURE: THEORY, PHILOSOPHICAL THOUGHT, AND APPROACHES TO LITERARY STUDY**". We recognize that completing this effort would be extremely difficult without the assistance and guidance of numerous stakeholders. As a result, we'd like to thank everyone who helped us put this book together until it can be presented to the reader.

This book provides an overview of literature from theoretical and appreciative-applied perspectives. This book has appropriately been arranged in some chapters that provide readers with insight into the literary works.

Finally, we hope that the chapters of this book produced through student labor will be useful to many people and that God Almighty will be delighted to repay all those who have assisted. This book, hopefully, will aid in the advancement of science.

Banjarmasin, Januari 2024
Writers

Fatchul Mu'in,
Rusma Noortyani,
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PROLOGUE

Literature is an expansive term that covers a wide array of artistic expressions involving written, spoken, or sung forms that employ language to convey ideas, emotions, and experiences. This includes an extensive variety of creative and intellectual creations like novels, short stories, poetry, plays, and essays, both in written and spoken forms. In a more specific context, literature functions as an art form enabling individuals to articulate their creativity, thoughts, and emotions through language. This often entails the utilization of literary devices, figurative language, and various stylistic elements to communicate meaning and evoke emotional responses.

Beyond its creative dimension, literature serves as a channel for communicating ideas, beliefs, and perspectives, exploring diverse facets of the human experience such as love, loss, identity, morality, and societal concerns. As an integral part of cultural heritage, literature mirrors the values, traditions, and history of societies, contributing to the preservation and transmission of cultural identity across generations. Literature encompasses various genres, including fiction, non-fiction, drama, and poetry, each characterized by unique features and conventions.

Literature is not merely informative; it also provides entertainment and aesthetic pleasure. Engaging narratives, well-crafted language, and imaginative storytelling captivate readers and listeners, offering enjoyment beyond the mere conveyance of information. Exploring the intricacies of the human condition, literature delves into psychological, emotional, and philosophical aspects, providing insights into the challenges, triumphs, and dilemmas faced by individuals and societies.

Literature also invites critical analysis and interpretation, with scholars, students, and readers scrutinizing works to reveal deeper meanings, cultural contexts, and the artistic techniques employed by authors. While written works are central to literature, the term also encompasses oral traditions, storytelling, and other forms of artistic expression that convey meaning through language.

Literature plays a pivotal role in shaping cultural narratives, fostering empathy, and facilitating a profound understanding of the world.

From the standpoint of autonomous literary works, the primary emphasis is on viewing literary works as self-contained entities that do not rely on external contexts or objectives. This autonomous approach posits that literary works possess an independent existence and artistic value, and they do not necessitate being defined or interpreted within the framework of a specific history, culture, or social context.

The intrinsic value of literary works lies within themselves, not as a means to achieve specific objectives or convey particular messages. This implies that the artistic worth of literary works is derived from the direct experience of reading and exploring the work itself, rather than from external goals. The central objective is to appreciate the beauty and aesthetics inherent in literary works. The autonomy of literary works underscores the examination of language, style, and structure, which possess an inherent beauty that can be enjoyed without seeking meaning beyond the text.

In this context, writers are seen to have complete freedom to express their visions and ideas without being constrained by demands or pressures from external contexts. This freedom allows for innovation and experimentation in the creation of literary works..

Autonomous literary works frequently incorporate elements of ambiguity or open interpretation, enabling readers to formulate individual understandings and interpretations. This acknowledges the diverse perspectives and responses that readers may have to literary works. The interpretation of such autonomous works is conducted within a contextual framework. This approach tends to be critical of interpretations that overly rely on social, historical, or political context in understanding literary works.

The autonomy of literary works prompts questions regarding the extent to which comprehension of a work may be confined by factors external to the text itself. A perspective that views literary works as autonomous often engages readers in a more personal and

unrestrained experience, respecting the distinctiveness of each reader in their interpretation and appreciation of literary works. While this approach does not negate the significance of social or historical context, it underscores that the artistic value of literary works is inherent in the existence and structure of the text itself.

Literary genres function as a framework for comprehending and discussing various written works. They aid both creators and consumers of literature by supplying a common vocabulary to depict and categorize different forms of expression. These genres are all-encompassing categories that cover a broad spectrum of works, and their boundaries are flexible, allowing for the exploration of hybrid forms that amalgamate elements from diverse genres.

The categorization of literary works into genres serves practical purposes within the publishing and book-selling industries, facilitating marketing strategies, organizing books on shelves, and assisting readers in discovering works aligned with their preferences. The classification of genres can be subjective, with individuals interpreting a particular work's genre differently. Additionally, genres may vary across cultures and historical periods, mirroring shifts in literary tastes and cultural influences.

While numerous subgenres and niche categories exist, there are enduring, universally recognized broad genres such as poetry, fiction, non-fiction, drama, and essay. Each of these encompasses a varied range of works, enabling further categorization based on distinct characteristics. Every genre possesses its unique features, stylistic elements, and conventions that differentiate it from others. For instance, poetry often highlights rhythm and metaphor, whereas fiction commonly incorporates narrative prose and character development.

Literary genres provide readers and audiences with diverse means of engaging with and interpreting the world. For example, poetry may offer a concise and expressive exploration of emotions, fiction can construct immersive worlds and narratives, and non-fiction typically focuses on presenting factual information and real-life events.

The literary categories include poetry, fiction, non-fiction, drama, and essay, representing the primary genres of literary works. Each genre possesses unique characteristics, style, and purpose, offering readers a diverse array of options to explore and engage with literature. Poetry employs rhythmic and expressive language, focusing on emotions, imagery, and the deliberate arrangement of words to create a distinct aesthetic experience. Fiction encompasses narratives crafted from the author's imagination, spanning from fantastical tales to realistic depictions of human experiences, allowing for a broad spectrum of creative expression. Non-fiction encompasses works grounded in real events, facts, and information, incorporating essays, biographies, historical accounts, and other forms of writing dedicated to presenting accurate and truthful content. Drama, primarily associated with plays and theatrical productions, delves into human experiences and conflicts through dialogue and performance, often intended for the stage or screen. Essays involve a focused and concise exploration of a specific topic, showcasing a wide range of styles and content, from personal reflections to analytical discussions.

Literature mirrors reality by constructing a fictional realm that mirrors real-world elements. The Abramsian perspective involves scrutinizing how authors portray the world through characters, settings, and narrative. Essential inquiries revolve around the faithfulness of the imitation and the ethical or philosophical implications of the portrayal.

Mimetic theory asserts that literary creations endeavor to imitate or depict the actual world, including humans and their surrounding circumstances. This theory posits that literary works strive to emulate reality to offer insights into life, society, and humanity. Mimetic theory primarily focuses on imitative endeavors using language, characters, and plotlines to craft images akin to reality.

A mimetic viewpoint perceives literary works as reflective mirrors showcasing society, values, and everyday challenges. The representation of characters, conflicts, and settings is often seen as a

simulation of social existence. Characters and dialogues, within mimetic theory, serve as tools for creating depictions of human interactions and their complexities. The author endeavors to portray characters and conversations mirroring the intricate and dynamic nature of human life.

From a mimetic stance, literary works aid readers in comprehending diverse human personalities, motivations, and responses to varied situations. It functions as a form of human life simulation, offering additional insights. Additionally, mimetic literary pieces frequently provoke contemplation on morality and ethics within human existence. The conflicts within stories prompt readers to ponder moral decisions and the repercussions of certain actions.

Mimetic theory also posits that literary works, from this perspective, act as tools for simulating human experiences, enabling readers to empathize with characters and situations depicted in the narrative. Ultimately, mimetic theory provides a platform for critiquing reality or society. Literary creations can be employed to contemplate issues such as inequality, social discord, or other challenges in human life.

While mimetic theory emphasizes the representation and imitation aspects of literary works, it does not delve into how literature surpasses being a mere replica or simulation of reality. This perspective may overlook inquiries into the distinctiveness and specificity of literary art, which may not be fully encapsulated by physical or social reality.

In the Abramsian perspective, literature is perceived as a powerful mode of expression that serves as a reflection of the author's thoughts, emotions, and inner experiences. This particular approach encourages literary researchers to delve into the biographical and psychological aspects of the writer's life, seeking to uncover the personal and emotional intentions that are intricately woven into their work. Essentially, the Abramsian viewpoint places a significant emphasis on the individuality and subjectivity of the writer, considering it a pivotal element in the process of analyzing and comprehending literary works.

By delving into the personal and emotional dimensions of the author, literary research from an Abramsian perspective strives to unveil the profound layers of meaning embedded within the literary work. This approach recognizes that the unique life experiences, emotions, and personal perspectives of the writer profoundly influence the creation of their literary pieces. The aim is to illuminate how the author's individuality shapes the narrative, characters, and themes, contributing to the richness and complexity of the literary work.

In essence, the Abramsian perspective asserts that understanding the author's personal and emotional landscape is essential for a comprehensive interpretation of their work. It posits that the intricacies of the writer's inner world significantly contribute to the depth and nuances present in the literary composition. By placing the writer at the center of the analytical process, this perspective offers a nuanced and holistic understanding of literature that goes beyond surface-level interpretation, acknowledging the profound impact of the author's subjectivity on the creation and interpretation of their artistic endeavors.

Within the framework of objective theory, the interpretation of a literary work is primarily derived from the text itself, independently of the author's intentions or the reader's interpretations. Guided by this principle, literary researchers engage in a thorough examination of the language, structure, and literary devices embedded in the text. The primary objective of this research is to uncover the inherent meaning and significance within the text, untethered from the influence of the author's original intentions or the responses of readers.

This approach places a strong emphasis on exploring the intrinsic elements of the text, delving into the very fabric of the writing to identify and interpret its literary meaning. By focusing on the text's objective components, such as word choice, syntax, and narrative structure, researchers aim to discern the intended meaning and significance as encapsulated within the work itself. This method encourages a disciplined and impartial analysis that

aims to minimize external influences, allowing the text to speak for itself and reveal its inherent complexities.

The objective theory approach is characterized by a commitment to objectivity in the exploration of literary meaning. It advocates for an unbiased examination of the text, free from preconceived notions about the author's intentions or the varied interpretations readers might bring to the work. The goal is to uncover a universal or objective understanding of the text's meaning that transcends individual perspectives, fostering a more systematic and rigorous analysis of the literary work. In essence, objective theory emphasizes the autonomy of the text, asserting that its inherent elements contain the key to unlocking its meaning, irrespective of external factors..

Readers play a pivotal role in the interpretation of literary works, actively participating in the construction of meaning through their interaction with the text. Literary researchers delve into the ways in which readers engage with, interpret, and derive their own significance from the texts they encounter. The active involvement of readers in shaping the meaning of literary works is a central focus of literary research.

In this context, literary scholars emphasize the dynamic and participatory nature of readers, highlighting their influential role in interpreting literary works. This involvement extends beyond a mere literal understanding of the text; it encompasses emotional responses and personal interpretations that contribute to the creation of unique meanings for each reader. The reader's active engagement is, therefore, recognized as a fundamental element in the process of forming and comprehending meaning within literary works.

The contributions of Abrams to literary theory advocate for a multifaceted approach to understanding literature. His ideas encompass various aspects, including authorial intent, text analysis, and reader response. Scholars and critics often draw on Abrams' concepts to develop more intricate interpretations, acknowledging the intricate interplay of these elements. This holistic approach recognizes that meaning in literature is a dynamic product of the

interrelationship between the author's intentions, the textual components, and the active engagement of readers. By considering these diverse elements, literary analysis becomes more nuanced, acknowledging the complexity inherent in the interpretation and understanding of literary works.

The perspective of literary schools involves the examination and analysis of literature through the lens of various literary schools or genres. Literary genres encompass specific approaches or styles in the creation, compilation, and interpretation of literary works, each characterized by distinct features, values, and focuses. These genres provide a framework for understanding and evaluating literary works.

❖ **Romanticism**

One prominent example of a literary genre serving as a perspective in analyzing literary works is Romanticism. Romanticism, as a literary current that emerged at the end of the 18th century and persisted until the mid-19th century, places a strong emphasis on emotional expression, individual freedom, and appreciation for natural beauty. In the realm of Romanticism, the author's personal thoughts and feelings take center stage in the work.

Within the Romantic genre, there is a celebration of the expression of individual emotions, often manifesting in deep love, sadness, or joy. Free thinking and individual freedom are esteemed as crucial values, with the author championing creative freedom and the uniqueness of the human spirit. Nature serves as a primary source of inspiration, with its beauty viewed as a wonder that often becomes a metaphor for the emotional landscape within literary works. Descriptions of nature are frequently employed to articulate and enhance the emotional depth of the narrative.

Romanticism exhibits a particular penchant for sentiments and deep feelings, assigning them greater emphasis than rationality or logic. The genre is characterized by a rejection of pre-existing literary rules and norms, driven by the aspiration to create something innovative and distinctive. Romantic works

often delve into the realm of imagination and fantasy, creating worlds filled with wonder and beauty.

Noteworthy figures associated with Romanticism include William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and John Keats in England, as well as Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in Germany. These individuals are considered representatives of Romanticism in literature. In summary, Romanticism played a pivotal role in influencing the creative spirit and catalyzing changes in literature, art, and thought during a specific historical period..

❖ **Realism**

Realism in literature emerged during the 19th century, particularly in the mid-to-late part of that era, as a response to the idealized and romanticized depictions prevalent in Romantic literature. The primary objective of Realism was to present everyday life, experiences, and social conditions with accuracy and objectivity. This literary movement is distinguished by its focus on representing the ordinary, mundane aspects, and often harsh realities of life.

Realist writers aimed to offer a truthful and objective portrayal of reality, steering clear of romantic embellishments or idealistic distortions. The literature produced within this movement often pays meticulous attention to detail, providing comprehensive descriptions of characters, settings, and social environments. The aim is to create a vibrant and authentic representation of the depicted world.

In Realist works, characters from the middle or lower classes take center stage, highlighting the lives of ordinary people rather than focusing on aristocrats or exceptional individuals. This marked a departure from earlier literature, which often centered around heroic figures or romanticized protagonists. Realism also delves into contemporary social issues such as poverty, class disparities, industrialization, and urbanization. Writers sought to critique societal norms and shed light on the challenges faced by various segments of the population.

Verisimilitude, or the appearance of being true to life, was a key aspiration in Realist literature. This involved capturing the subtleties of speech, behavior, and social interactions to foster a sense of authenticity. Realism intentionally rejected the lofty idealism and emotional exaggeration frequently found in Romantic literature, opting for a more practical and down-to-earth portrayal of the world.

Some noteworthy Realist authors include Gustave Flaubert, Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Charles Dickens, and Emile Zola. Each of these writers significantly contributed to the development of Realist literature in their respective countries, providing insightful and critical depictions of the society and culture of their times.

❖ **Naturalism**

Naturalism in literature is a literary movement that emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, building upon the principles of Realism. Naturalist literature sought to apply scientific principles to the study of human nature and society, portraying characters as products of their environment and heredity. This literary movement was heavily influenced by scientific determinism and the idea that individuals were shaped by forces beyond their control.

Naturalism emphasizes the influence of external and internal forces on human behavior. Characters are often portrayed as being shaped by their environment, heredity, and social circumstances, with little room for free will. Naturalist works often exhibit a pessimistic view of human nature. Characters in naturalist literature are frequently depicted as victims of their circumstances, facing struggles and hardships that are difficult to overcome.

Similar to realism, naturalist literature frequently focuses on individuals from lower socioeconomic classes, delving into their lives and challenges. The primary emphasis lies in depicting the harsh realities of existence, encompassing aspects like poverty and social inequality. Naturalist authors employ detailed and objective descriptions of characters, settings, and

events, aiming to craft a more precise and scientifically grounded representation of the depicted world. The influence of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, particularly the concept of survival of the fittest, is evident in naturalism. This influence manifests in the portrayal of characters as products of a competitive and at times hostile environment.

Naturalist literature often brings attention to and criticizes societal issues such as poverty, racism, and the consequences of industrialization. Writers seek to illuminate the grim realities confronted by individuals in a swiftly changing world. Renowned naturalist authors, including Émile Zola, Stephen Crane, Frank Norris, and Theodore Dreiser, have each played a significant role in exploring and advancing naturalist themes in literature, offering a nuanced perspective on the deterministic forces that shape human existence.

❖ Symbolism

Symbolism in literature is a literary technique wherein symbols, often manifesting as objects, characters, or events, are employed to convey meanings that extend beyond their literal interpretations. These symbols serve as conduits for intricate ideas, emotions, or themes, thereby imparting depth and layers of significance to a literary composition. The use of symbolism enables authors to articulate abstract concepts in a more tangible and evocative manner, inviting readers to delve into a more profound level of interpretation.

Symbols function as vessels representing abstract notions like love, death, time, or freedom. By attributing symbolic meaning to specific elements within the narrative, authors can delve into these concepts with greater nuance and vividness. Moreover, symbols are frequently harnessed to fortify and enrich the themes of a literary work, acting as recurring motifs that unify various facets of the story and underscore the overarching messages or lessons the author intends to communicate. Symbolism also contributes to shaping the atmosphere or mood within a literary piece; for instance, a

recurrent symbol of darkness may evoke a sense of foreboding or mystery.

In addition, symbols can be linked to characters, embodying aspects of their personalities, motivations, or character arcs. The interaction between a character and a particular symbol can offer valuable insights into their internal struggles or personal growth. These symbols may carry cultural or historical significance, adding layers of meaning that resonate with readers familiar with those cultural or historical contexts.

Crucially, symbolism encourages diverse interpretations, permitting readers to engage with the text on an individual and subjective level. Different readers may discern various meanings from the same symbol, contributing richness to the overall reading experience.

Illustrative instances of symbolism in literature encompass the green light in F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby," signifying Gatsby's aspirations and the American Dream, and the mockingbird in Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird," symbolizing innocence and vulnerability.

❖ **Modernism**

Modernism in literature emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as a response to significant societal, cultural, and technological changes. Modernist writers aimed to depart from traditional forms and styles, opting for innovative techniques to encapsulate the complexities and uncertainties of the modern world. This movement is marked by a shift away from conventional narrative structures, a concentration on subjective experiences, and an exploration of novel narrative methods.

Modernist literary works often display fragmented narrative structures, rejecting linear storytelling in favor of disjointed or non-chronological sequences. This fragmentation mirrors the disjointed nature of contemporary experience. Employing the stream-of-consciousness technique, modernist writers frequently delved into the inner thoughts and feelings of characters in a continuous, unbroken flow, intending to capture the intricacies of human consciousness.

A central tenet of modernism is the emphasis on subjective experiences, offering a diverse array of perspectives and interpretations. The focus shifts from an objective representation of reality to a more personalized and subjective exploration. Many modernist works convey feelings of alienation and disillusionment, reflecting the disorienting impact of technological advancements, social upheavals, and the aftermath of World War I.

Experimentation with language, syntax, and form is a characteristic feature of modernist writers. They often pushed the boundaries of traditional grammar and vocabulary, introducing innovative linguistic structures and wordplay. Modernist literature often functions as a platform for cultural and social critique, with writers challenging established norms, traditions, and societal structures, reflecting the skepticism and uncertainty of the time.

Modernist works frequently incorporate intertextuality, referencing other texts, art, or cultural elements, showcasing a broader engagement with various cultural influences and a departure from isolationist literary practices. Noteworthy modernist authors such as James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, T.S. Eliot, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Franz Kafka made distinctive contributions to the development of modernist literature, highlighting the movement's diversity and its ability to capture the multifaceted nature of the modern era.

❖ **Postmodernism**

Postmodernism in literature emerged during the mid-to-late 20th century as a response and reaction to the principles of modernism. It is characterized by a departure from the grand narratives and established conventions of modernist literature, challenging traditional notions of authorship, reality, and the stability of meaning. This movement is marked by skepticism, playfulness, and a rejection of the notion that literature should possess a fixed or objective meaning.

Postmodernist literature frequently adopts fragmentation, employing non-linear narratives and disjointed structures. Parody and pastiche, involving the imitation or exaggeration of other styles, genres, or works, are commonly featured, challenging the seriousness associated with traditional literature.

Intertextuality is a prevalent feature of postmodernist works, incorporating references and drawing upon other texts, genres, or cultural products. This blending of boundaries fosters a sense of interconnectedness and rejects the idea of isolated literary creation.

Metafiction is another characteristic of postmodernist literature, where the text self-consciously acknowledges its fictional nature. Authors may break the fourth wall, directly addressing the reader or questioning the nature of the narrative. Postmodernism dismisses the concept of grand, overarching narratives or universal truths, exploring multiple perspectives and emphasizing subjectivity and the relativity of truth.

Irony and playfulness are common elements in postmodernist literature, with authors using irony to subvert expectations or challenge conventional meanings. This results in a more playful and self-aware approach to storytelling.

Similar to modernism, postmodernist literature engages in cultural and social critique. However, postmodernism often does so with irony and self-awareness, questioning the validity of critiques and highlighting the complexity of societal issues.

Postmodernism celebrates diversity and the inclusion of multiple voices, perspectives, and cultural influences, rejecting the notion of a single, authoritative voice in literature. Notable postmodernist authors, including Jorge Luis Borges, Italo Calvino, Thomas Pynchon, Salman Rushdie, and Don DeLillo, have contributed to the diverse and rich landscape of postmodernist literature, emphasizing a departure from traditional literary conventions and a celebration of diversity, complexity, and interconnectedness.

❖ **Feminism**

Feminism in literature involves examining and expressing feminist perspectives, themes, and concerns within literary works. This literary movement emerged as a crucial component of the broader feminist movement, aiming to critique and address the depiction of women in literature, challenge established gender norms, and advocate for equality between genders. The breadth of feminist literature encompasses various genres, styles, and historical periods, reflecting the dynamic evolution of feminist ideology and its intersections with diverse cultural, social, and historical contexts.

Feminist literature strives to present authentic and nuanced portrayals of women, surpassing stereotypical or limiting depictions. It delves into the intricacies of women's experiences, highlighting their agency, voices, and challenges. Works within this movement often challenge traditional gender roles and expectations by questioning societal norms, subverting stereotypes, and portraying characters who defy conventional gender expectations.

Addressing a wide spectrum of themes, feminist literature explores women's rights, reproductive rights, sexuality, identity, intersectionality, and the impact of patriarchy on women's lives. These themes are explored through various narrative techniques and literary devices. Feminist literary criticism scrutinizes texts through a feminist lens, examining how gender roles and power dynamics are depicted, and evaluating how literature reflects or challenges societal attitudes toward women and gender.

Feminist literature emphasizes the importance of women's voices and perspectives, incorporating autobiographical narratives, memoirs, or fictional works that illuminate the lived experiences of women. Delving into historical contexts, feminist literature uncovers women's experiences in different periods and cultures, highlighting their contributions throughout history and addressing historical injustices and inequalities.

Many contemporary feminist works embrace intersectionality, recognizing that women's experiences are shaped by factors such as race, class, sexuality, and ethnicity. Intersectional feminism in literature delves into the complexities of identity and oppression.

Prominent feminist authors, including Virginia Woolf, Simone de Beauvoir, Alice Walker, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and Margaret Atwood, among others, have significantly contributed to the diverse landscape of feminist literature. Their literary works have fostered discussions about gender, equality, and the varied experiences of women, enriching the ongoing dialogue within the feminist literary tradition..

❖ **Expresionism**

Expressionism in literature emerged in the early 20th century, primarily in Germany, with a central aim of communicating intense emotions, subjective experiences, and the inner turmoil of characters. This movement served as a response to the prevailing naturalistic and realistic approaches that dominated literature during that period. Characterized by a profound focus on the emotional and psychological dimensions of characters, Expressionist literature often employed distorted or exaggerated depictions of reality to elicit powerful emotional responses.

Expressionist literary works give precedence to the subjective experiences and emotions of characters, delving into the inner psyche to capture the intense and sometimes chaotic emotional states of individuals. They frequently present a distorted or heightened version of reality, utilizing this distortion to underscore the emotional impact of the narrative and generate a sense of unease or tension.

Symbolism and metaphor are integral to Expressionist literature, with writers employing these elements to convey deeper meanings and explore the psychological and emotional dimensions of their characters. Rejecting a realistic portrayal of the external world, Expressionist literature favors an internal,

subjective reality, allowing for a more abstract and symbolic representation of the human experience.

Expressionist writers experiment with language, employing unconventional syntax, vivid imagery, and heightened language to convey the intensity of emotions, aiming to evoke a visceral response from readers. While primarily focused on individual psychology, Expressionist literature often delves into social and cultural issues, emphasizing how societal factors impact the emotional and mental states of individuals.

Beyond literature, Expressionism had a profound impact on other art forms, particularly theater and visual arts. The movement sought to create a comprehensive work of art by integrating various artistic forms to convey a unified emotional experience.

Prominent Expressionist authors, including Franz Kafka, Georg Heym, and Georg Trakl, played key roles in shaping the movement. Expressionism flourished during the early decades of the 20th century, reflecting the broader cultural and social upheavals of the time.

Examining literary works through the lens of literary schools provides readers and researchers with a valuable framework to comprehend the work within the context of its historical, cultural, and ideological influences. By employing this perspective, one gains insight into the prevailing intellectual currents and societal norms that shaped the creation of the literary piece.

This analytical approach allows for a more profound exploration of the interconnectedness between a work of literature and the broader milieu in which it was produced. Literary schools often embody distinct characteristics, values, and thematic preoccupations, offering a roadmap to decipher the underlying motivations and intentions of the author.

Moreover, delving into literary schools facilitates a nuanced understanding of the evolution of literary traditions over time. It illuminates how certain movements emerged as

reactions or responses to the socio-cultural circumstances of their eras, contributing to the rich tapestry of literary history.

By situating a work within a specific literary school, scholars and enthusiasts can unravel the intricate connections between the narrative and the prevailing intellectual, artistic, and philosophical currents. This contextual understanding enhances the appreciation and interpretation of the work, as it becomes a reflection not only of individual creativity but also of the collective consciousness of a particular period. ===

In essence, analyzing literary works through the perspective of literary schools enriches the exploration of literature by connecting it to the broader tapestry of human experience, allowing for a more profound comprehension of the intricate interplay between art and the socio-cultural milieu.

UNIT

1

WHAT IS LITERATURE?

A. Introduction

Literature is the expression of human's feelings, ideas, imaginations, thought, experiences, and emotions through beautiful language. Its purpose is to entertain its readers¹. Literature is a kind of body of written works. The name has traditionally been applied to those imaginative works of poetry and prose distinguished by the intentions of their authors and the perceived aesthetic excellence of their execution. Literature may be classified according to a variety of systems, including language, national origin, historical period, genre, and subject matter. Literature is indeed a form of artistic expression that encompasses a wide range of human experiences and emotions.

Literature often serves as a vehicle for authors to convey their emotions, whether it is love, sadness, anger, joy, or other complex feelings. Through the written word, authors can evoke and communicate these emotions to their readers.

Authors use descriptive language to evoke emotions by painting vivid pictures in the minds of readers. By carefully selecting words that appeal to the senses, they can create a sensory experience that intensifies the emotional impact of the narrative. Well-developed characters allow readers to connect with the story on a personal level. Readers often empathize with

¹ Meliana, S. (2016). *Sociology of Literature & Feminist Sociological Theory*. Tangerang : Pustaka Mandiri.

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UNIT

2

POETRY

A. Introduction

Literary genres are broad categories or classifications of literary works that are defined by their content, style, and form. These categories are often used by publishers, booksellers, and readers to organize and classify works of literature. While the classification of literary works into genres is somewhat subjective and can vary over time and across cultures, there are certain genres that are recognized and used widely in literary studies and criticism. Examples of literary genres include *poetry*, *fiction*, *non-fiction*, *drama*, and *essay*. Each genre has its own unique characteristics and conventions, and can offer readers and audiences different ways of engaging with and understanding the world around us.

A poem is a composition that uses words to evoke emotions in an imaginative way. Although poetry is a form of self-expression that knows no bounds, it can be safely divided into three main genres: lyric poetry, narrative poetry and dramatic poetry.³³ The main function of poetry is to interpret life. Without poetry science becomes incomplete. The strongest part of our religion is its unconscious poetry. "Poetry is the impassioned expression which is in the countenance of all

³³ <https://www.yourdictionary.com/articles/examples-poetry-genres>

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UNIT

3

FICTION PROSE

A. Introduction

Prose is verbal or written language that follows the natural flow of speech. It is the most common form of writing, used in both fiction and non-fiction. Prose comes from the Latin “prosa oratio,” meaning “straightforward.” Prose refers to written or spoken language lacking the metrical structure and rhythmic patterns found in poetry. It is the standard style of writing used in most literature, essays, novels, short stories, and everyday communication. The prose is characterized by its natural flow, coherence, and use of complete sentences and paragraphs. Unlike poetry, which often employs rhyme, meter, and figurative language, prose prioritizes clarity, narrative or informative content, and straightforward expression of ideas. In prose, the focus is on conveying information, describing events or characters, expressing thoughts and emotions, or presenting arguments in a more direct and accessible manner.

The prose is generally divided into exposition, description, argumentation, persuasion, and narrative. Prose aims to convey ideas, narratives, descriptions, or arguments straightforwardly and coherently, typically organized into paragraphs and sentences.

Exposition is a text that elaborates the writer’s idea about the phenomenon surrounding. Its social function is to persuade the reader that the idea is important matter. **Exposition** involves presenting information, explaining ideas, or providing

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UNIT

4

DRAMA

A. Introduction

Drama encompasses a distinct type of fiction presented through live performances like plays, operas, mimes, and ballets, staged in theaters or broadcast on radio and television. It is classified as a genre of poetry and has been scrutinized since Aristotle's era, standing in contrast to epic and lyrical modes. The term "drama" is derived from a Greek word signifying "deed" or "act," with the two masks associated with drama symbolizing the traditional split between comedy and tragedy.¹⁰⁹

Historically, the term "play" was commonly used in English until Shakespeare's time. In a more specific modern sense, "drama" refers to plays that do not fit into the categories of comedy or tragedy. While "Romeo and Juliet" diverges from the typical formula of tragedies, it lacks the comedic scenes and tropes to classify as a true tragicomedy. "Romeo and Juliet" fits awkwardly into the tragic genre due to its lack of a noble tragic hero. In the place of an admirable figure brought low by a flaw, "Romeo and Juliet" follows two young, impressionable people given and acting on terrible advice from their peers.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁹ The Poetics of Aristotle, by Aristotle
(<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1974/1974-h/1974-h.htm>)

¹¹⁰ <https://study.com/academy/lesson/tragicomedy-definition-examples.html>

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UNIT

5

PRINCIPLES OF LITERATURE

A. Introduction

There are two as an art work: “l’art pour l’art” and “dulce et utile”. “l’art pour l’art” and “dulce et utile” are two different principles of aesthetics that have been influential in the history of literature and art. “l’art pour l’art” emphasizes the idea that art should be created for its own sake, without any obligation to serve a practical or moral purpose. Instead, this principle emphasizes the importance of aesthetic pleasure and beauty as the primary goal of art.

On the other hand, “dulce et utile” emphasizes the idea that art should serve a practical or moral purpose in addition to being aesthetically pleasing. This principle emphasizes the importance of art to educate, inspire, or promote social or political change. While these two principles may seem contradictory initially, they are not mutually exclusive. Many works of art and literature have been created with aesthetic and practical goals.

For example, a novel or a film may be aesthetically pleasing and enjoyable to read or watch, but it may also have a deeper message or social commentary that can inspire or educate the audience. Ultimately, the choice between “l’art pour l’art” and “dulce et utile” depends on the individual artist or writer’s goals and motivations.

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UNIT 6

PHILOSOPHICAL BELIEFS IN LITERATURE

A. Introduction

Philosophical beliefs often play a significant role in the literature regarding the ideas explored within the text and the author's worldview. This refers to "a basic set of beliefs that guide action". Philosophical beliefs are often intertwined with literature, influencing the ideas explored within the text and the author's worldview. Philosophers read literature in an attempt to find new ideas that literary authors may write into their stories. Literary authors read philosophy to find the eternal struggles of man, then place their hero(ine) in situations where they must confront these struggles on various levels and to varying degrees.

Authors use literature to delve into philosophical concepts such as the nature of reality, the meaning of life, the existence of free will, ethical dilemmas, and the nature of human existence. In addition, they may use their characters and narratives to present different perspectives on these philosophical questions, inviting readers to contemplate and engage with these ideas.

Literary works often reflect the author's personal beliefs or the philosophical movements and ideologies prevalent during their writing. Authors may use their writing to advocate for a particular philosophical stance, critique existing beliefs, challenge societal norms, or raise important philosophical questions for readers.

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UNIT

7

THEORIES OF LITERATURE: FROM FORMALISM TO RACISM

A. Introduction

Theories of literature are frameworks that attempt to explain literature's nature, function, and meaning. These theories can be based on different perspectives and approaches, including formalist, historical, cultural, and psychological perspectives.

They can also draw on different fields of study, such as philosophy, linguistics, sociology, and literary criticism. For example, some of the most well-known theories of literature include Formalism, New Criticism, Structuralism, Post-Structuralism, Deconstruction, Psychoanalysis, Marxism, Feminism, Reader-Response Theory, and Cultural Studies.

Each of these literary theories offers a unique perspective on literature and can help readers and scholars better understand the texts they are studying. By examining literature through different theoretical lenses, we can uncover different layers of meaning and explore how literature reflects and shapes the world around us.

The main idea of Formalism in literary criticism is to focus on the formal aspects of a text, such as its structure, language, and style, rather than its content or meaning. The main idea of Formalism in literary criticism is to focus on the literary language and reject the historical implications of a work of art.

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UNIT

8

ABRAMS' PERSPECTIVES ON THEORY OF LITERATURE

A. Introduction

In his book *The Mirror and The Lamp* (1971), Abrams presents his Universe theory. Through the Universe theory, we know that: first, there is a work of literature (art); secondly, there are creators (authors) of literary works; third, there is a universe (nature) that underlies the creation of literary works; and fourth, there are connoisseurs of literary works (readers). Concerning the Universe theory, he said:

“Four elements in the total situation of a work of art are discriminated and made salient, by one or another synonym, in almost all theories which aim to be comprehensive. First, there is **the work**, the artist product itself. And, since this is a human product, an artifact, the second common element is the artificer, **the artist**. Third, the work is taken to have a subject which, directly or deviously, is derived from existing things-to be about, or signify, or reflect something which either is, or bears some relation to, an objective state of affairs. This third element, whether held to consist of people and actions, ideas and feelings, material things and events, or super-sensible essences, has frequently been denoted by that word-all-work, ‘nature’; but let us use the more neutral and comprehensive term, **universe**, instead. For the final element we have **the audience** : the listeners, spectators, or readers to whom the work of art is addressed... (Abrams, 1971 : 6).

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UNIT 9

LITERATURE IN AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE

A. Introduction

If we assert that literature is a reflection of human existence, encompassing (a) internal struggles within oneself, (b) interactions between individuals in the societal realm, including connections with the natural world, and (c) the connection between humans and a higher power (Nurgiyantoro, 1998: 323), then literature has the potential to address various aspects of human life. Literary works can delve into a range of human experiences, such as sorrow, worry, disillusionment, indignation, amazement, protest, as well as reflections on the environment, social structures, political systems, and more. Consequently, literary works share certain similarities (though not identical) with news articles in newspapers and research reports in disciplines like anthropology, sociology, psychology, and history.

Literary works can cover many facets of human life, including emotions such as sadness, anxiety, disappointment, anger, astonishment, protest, and explore thoughts and the surrounding environment. They can also address social and political structures, societal order, and historical contexts. In this sense, literature shares similarities with news articles in newspapers and research reports in disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, psychology, and history. This is because literary and non-literary works talk about humans, human life, events related to it, place, and time. The difference is

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UNIT 10 | CHILDREN LITERATURE

A. Introduction

Conceptually, children's literature differs from adult literature (adult literacy). Children's literature is written with child readers in mind. It is often written with children of a particular age group in mind, taking their reading ability into account. It is also written on topics that would most likely be of interest to children. Adult literature is not written with child readers in mind. Both are in the same area of literature, which covers life with all its feelings, thoughts, and insights into life. What differentiates it is the focus on providing a meaningful picture of life for children described in the work. The study of children's literature is also different from adult literature. Children's literature must be distinct from educational elements. Children's literature also includes non-fiction works, such as alphabet books.

The primary and most obvious distinction is the target audience. Children's literature refers mainly to stories, poetry, rhymes, folk tales, drama, exclusively created for children such as infants, toddlers and the young. Adult literature, on the other hand, is written for adults. Children's Literature is tailored to meet the needs, interests, and developmental stages of young readers, ranging from infants and toddlers to teenagers. The content, language, and themes are age-appropriate and often aim to educate, entertain, and foster imagination and moral development. In contrast, adult literature is crafted with adult

UNIT 11

DEVELOPING LANGUAGE SKILLS AND BUILDING CHARACTERS THROUGH LITERATURE

A. Introduction

Literature is a creative and imaginative work; it records human lives or experiences using a language as its medium. In a narrow sense, literature can be said as a special type of language used to express human lives based on literary rules or systems. Furthermore, learning literature is meant to know literature based on literary systems. It is also meant to learn a language. Literature refers to one written by using the language. Thus, the learning of literature implies learning the language as well. Besides, as stated before, the literary work is the record of human lives or human culture. Literary works can be utilized to build our socio-cultural awareness, and in turn, they contribute to our nation's character building.

Literature can be defined as a creative and imaginative form of expression that records human lives and experiences using language as its medium. This definition highlights the artistic and communicative nature of literature.

Literature is a specialized form of language that follows literary rules or systems. This highlights that literary works often employ unique techniques, styles, and structures that distinguish them from everyday language.

Learning literature is not only about appreciating literary works but also about learning the language itself. Reading and analyzing literature can help individuals improve their language skills, including vocabulary, grammar, and literary devices.

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UNIT 12

TEACHING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

A. Introduction

Children's literature talks about anything related to life's problems to provide information and a better understanding of life itself to children. Children's books, children's literature, are books that place the child's point of view as the center of the story and, at the same time, offer a significant truth that is expressed in appropriate elements and impressive language.

The genre can be understood as a kind or type of literature with a common set of characteristics or a category of grouping literary works, usually based on style, form, or content. This has the consequence of understanding that some elements have similar characteristics in a literary genre, which show differences from elements in other genres. Although he admits that there is often overlap, Lukens groups the genres of children's literature into six types: realism, formulaic fiction, fantasy, traditional literature, poetry, and non-fiction, with each having several more types—only complete after being shown and watched, and not merely literary language.

The proposed children's literature genre is quite differentiated into fiction, non-fiction, poetry, picture books, and comics, each having subgenres. The basis for the division is the form of disclosure and the content disclosed. Like Lukens and with the same argument, the drama genre is temporarily not included in this division. The genres of fiction and poetry can be distinguished into traditional fiction and poetry as well as

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UNIT 13

WHITE RACISM IN NATIVE SON

A. Introduction

The history of the United States has recorded African-American experiences, especially grievances. The Americans enslaving the black people marred the spirit of independence. Even after the Civil War, when slavery was abolished, black people were regarded as inferior citizens; white people still mistreated them.

The history of African-American experiences in the United States is marked by a long and complex journey filled with struggles, challenges, and resilience. The mistreatment of Black individuals has deep historical roots, from the era of slavery to the ongoing fight for civil rights. Slavery was deeply ingrained in the early development of the United States. From the 17th to the 19th century, millions of African people were forcibly brought to the Americas as slaves. Enslaved individuals endured harsh conditions, forced labor, and severe human rights abuses. Families were torn apart, and cultural connections were often suppressed. The institution of slavery was not only an economic system but also a deeply entrenched social and racial hierarchy.

The 19th-century abolitionist movement sought to end slavery, leading to the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. The Civil War (1861-1865) was a pivotal moment, and the Union victory led to the abolition of slavery with the passage of the 13th Amendment in 1865. The 19th-century abolitionist movement and the events surrounding the Civil War were pivotal moments

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UNIT 14

IMPLEMENTATION OF E- POETRY IN IMPROVING THE ABILITY TO WRITE CHILDREN'S POETRY

A. Introduction

Children's literature is defined as literature exclusively about children. Children's literature refers mainly to stories, poetry, rhymes, folk tales, drama, exclusively created for children such as infants, toddlers and the young people as target audience. Literature for children is different from literature for adults in degree but not in kind. Because children's understanding is more limited, the expression of ideas for children in literature must be simpler, both in language and form. The content of children's literature often revolves around themes that are relevant and relatable to young readers, aiming to foster their cognitive, emotional, and moral development. Children's literature plays a crucial role in encouraging literacy, imagination, and a love for reading from an early age.

Children's literature addresses various aspects of life's challenges to impart knowledge and enhance children's comprehension of life. These books, specifically tailored for children, prioritize the child's perspective in storytelling while conveying important truths through suitable elements and engaging language.

Children's literature serves as a valuable tool for addressing a spectrum of life's challenges in a way that is accessible and meaningful to young readers. These books are meticulously crafted to cater to the specific needs and developmental stages of children. Children's literature tackles a

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UNIT 15

SYMBOLIZATION OF LOCAL WISDOM IN MADURESE SONG LYRICS

A. Introduction

Madurese literature is a manifestation of the great culture of the Madurese people. Unfortunately, the limited understanding of Madurese literature makes literary works less meaningful (Misnadin, 2007). As a result, Madurese people are less able to appreciate Madurese literature and only regard it as a cultural work that has no significant role in developing Madurese society. If studied further, the content contained in Madurese literature has deep meaning because it can provide a clear picture of the identity of the Madurese people and form social symbols that can be used as a reference and guide for life in the Madurese community. To understand the meaning and nature of culture, Koentjaraningrat (1981:9) defines a "cultural framework."

This cultural framework is the basis for providing meaning and essence of culture. In his theory, Koentjaraningrat divides the cultural framework into two aspects, namely (1) the form of culture and (2) the content of culture. Cultural forms can take absurd forms, such as ideas and behavior, or real forms, such as physical forms or objects. These three forms in the form of physical form, ideas, and behavior, are also referred to sequentially as: (1) Cultural systems, which are abstract (ideas), (2) Social systems that are somewhat concrete (behavior), and (3) A physical culture is very substantial (physical form). Meanwhile, according to Koentjaraningrat, the content of culture

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UNIT 16

UNDERSTANDING TOURISM LITERATURE

A. Introduction

The connection between literature and tourism is a dynamic and mutually influential relationship. On one hand, tourism acts as a rich source of inspiration for the creation of literary works. Exploring new landscapes, encountering diverse cultures, and engaging with unfamiliar environments can spark the imagination of writers, leading to the creation of novels, poems, and other literary forms that draw from these experiences. The allure of travel, the discovery of new places, and the encounters with people from different walks of life often find their way into the narratives crafted by authors.

On the other hand, literature actively contributes to the promotion of tourism. Literary works can serve as powerful marketing tools, enticing readers to visit the locations described in the stories. Places featured prominently in novels or poems may become attractive destinations for literary enthusiasts seeking to immerse themselves in the settings that inspired their favorite works. Additionally, literary festivals, book-themed tours, and events centered around famous literary landmarks contribute to the tourism industry by drawing visitors who share a passion for literature.

This writing aims to delve into more nuanced aspects of this reciprocal association between literature and tourism. By proposing an interdisciplinary approach that merges the realms of literary studies and tourism studies, the goal is to explore the

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CLOSING STATEMENT

Viewing literature from the perspective of a cultural product allows us to understand it as a reflection and expression of the culture in which it was created. Literature is not just a form of entertainment or storytelling; it is a mirror that captures the beliefs, values, customs, and societal norms of a particular time and place. Here are some key aspects to consider when describing literature as a cultural product.

Cultural Identity and Representation

Literature often portrays the cultural identity of a group or community. It can showcase the experiences, struggles, and triumphs of a specific culture, offering insight into its unique characteristics and challenges. Literature serves as a powerful medium for portraying and preserving the cultural identity of a group or community. Through the written word, authors can illuminate the experiences, struggles, and triumphs of a particular culture, providing readers with a deeper understanding of its unique characteristics and the challenges faced by its members.

Authors often draw on the rich tapestry of cultural traditions, customs, and historical narratives to craft stories that reflect the identity of their community. By delving into the cultural nuances, language, and values of a specific group, literature becomes a mirror that reflects the multifaceted aspects of its identity. Moreover, literature has the ability to convey the shared history and heritage of a community, passing down oral traditions and collective memories from one generation to the next. It becomes a vehicle for cultural transmission, helping to preserve and celebrate a community's unique identity. Literature can also be a platform for addressing issues of cultural significance, shedding light on the challenges faced by a community and advocating for social change or understanding. Through narratives, poems, and essays, authors can articulate the complex realities of their culture, fostering empathy and cross-cultural appreciation among readers.

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Nama : **Prof. Dr. Fatchul Mu'in, M.Hum., Prof. Dr. Rusma Noortyani, M.Pd. dkk**
Alamat : Jl. Nilam IV No. 40 Komplek Griya Permata, RT 10, Kelurahan Handil Bakti, Kec. Alalak, Kab. Barito Kuala, Alalak, Barito Kuala, Kalimantan Selatan, 70582
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Jenis Ciptaan : **Buku**
Judul Ciptaan : **Literature: Theory, Philosophical Thought, And Approaches To Literary Study**
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