



The Role of Language in Literature: A review

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Abstract

Language in form of words comprises to create a literature which can reflect the objectives and authenticity of life. Literature has several forms depending upon the author and the use of language. Language is a way of expressing the thoughts and literature is the way to give it a reach. Literature is the carrier of the image of art, so it is different from music, sculpture, painting and other art forms. Literature can be teacher and explain the different prospects and aspects of life. Literature can get rid of the binding of specific material materials, be free from time and space constraints, reflect a wide range of rich social life and directly characterize the complex and delicate inner world. The cultivation of language skills is inseparable from literature. Literature can stimulate the interests of language learning, provide rich and vivid materials, make learners seem to be immersive and unknowingly complete the accumulation of vocabulary, the infiltration of grammar and the formation of language sense. At the same time of getting the ability of understanding, the ability of outputting language also forms. With the improvement of literary literacy, language skill also increases from the basic understanding and expression to deep understanding and literary expression. Language can undoubtedly be considered as the soul of literature. The study of English language and literature has an important influence on improving students' skills to use language. This work will review the importance of language in literature and suggests better ways for its improvement in future.

Introduction

Language has always been there and there is no specific written record is present of its beginning. Though numerous changes took place in thousands of year, its attachment towards literature has progressively increased. Since the occurrence of communicative approach in the years of 1970s, the focus towards language teaching and learning is rightly on building communicative competence which is commonly defined as the learners ability and skill to use their language knowledge (e.g. vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, as well as meaning) functionally and socially in communicative events. The communicative approach has motivated many language teachers emphasize their teaching strategies on things which are deemed relevant to the attainment of communicative competence in teaching English e.g. bringing functional language and real life based English teaching materials into ELT classrooms (Reads, 2018). This is done for achieving one main purpose i.e. to equip the learners with knowledge of communication and skills they need to take a part in real social interactions, by using natural English with real native English speakers. There are at least two important things in the teachers' perception regarding CLT, the first is the use of functional language, such as asking for directions, making requests, talking about daily activities or hobbies, discussing their jobs or families, for all level of learners; the second is the use of authentic materials as a way to expose the language which is used in real life situations by native speakers of English.



To inform readers of the whereabouts of your position on the relevancy towards the given issues or debates, the language brought in use plays an important role. The academic cultures where the authors are solely responsible, it is their job to guide the readers over the exact meanings and conclusions of the content. Since literature reviews can involve complex ideas and various bodies of literature, it is necessary to be explicit about how the studies that you cite are connected to each other and are relevant for your own research, and how the ideas introduced are relevant for developing your argument. One can achieve this by using language that clearly indicates your position and strengthens your voice in relation to others'. (Skills, 2017)

There are various media and channels through which literature can be conveyed such as words, sound, sculpture drawings, etc. Though, literature appears of having one common carrier, and that is language. The significance of the language within any literature is what makes literature available.

In general, the definition of literature can be made as a tool for creating communication among human beings of a particular community. On the other hand, literature is also a communicative channel among authors and audiences. Though, in an unavoidable manner, author uses language so as to communicate or convey his/her literature to his/her intended audience/readers.

Definition of Literature

Literature can be stated as undefined because of its infinite possibilities which may never be completely explored completely. Literature is way of teaching, expressing, learning, and so on. In general, it can be said that there cannot be a clear and precise definition of literature because its scope is so vast that it covers almost all thee spheres of life. Different scholars have differently defined the literature but those definitions cannot be taken as final. Everyone has their own definition of literature based on his understanding. But it is a universally accepted fact that literature is the mirror of our lives where one can see their own life's reflections. Literature, in its most comprehensive meaning, includes all the activities of human soul in general, or within particular sphere, period, country, or a language.

Importance of Language in Literature

Both language and literature depends on each other. They both can be considered as inseparable. Language is the primary and sole constituent of literature and its appropriate use makes the literature worthy for reading, understanding and learning. Teaching literature in foreign language is not an easy task for most teachers. But also teaching literature using indigenous language is not a simple task. The important thing to note is that when teaching literature in any class and in any level of school, a teacher will need various literatures' materials in order to perfect his lesson. For example, the students cannot study four language skills without reading literature. This and other learning experiences prove to us that language is very important in studying literature for most students. After all, there is no literature without language either spoken or written (Reads, 2015). The following are the reasons why language is important in literature:

Language is the medium of Literature (the road, carrier, or vehicle) through which literature is conveyed either verbally or in written form.



Literature is created by language. This means there would be no literature if there was no language. When the text uses language in an artistic or peculiar way, it is called literature or literary text.

Literature transforms and intensifies ordinary language into creative one. In doing so, literature deviates systematically from everyday speech to figurative language.

Language can be improved by reading literature. This makes reading an approach for developing the skills related to language. We read various literary texts to improve language.

Language helps students to develop textual analysis skills of various literary works.

Language in literature helps to expose students to samples of real-life settings in various literary works.

Language increases cultural enrichment for students. So, the role played by the language in literature increases cultural enrichment to students.

So, literature is termed as 'creative' and 'imaginative' writing because it employs language in peculiar ways. It is a distinctive art that uses language creatively and artistically as its medium of communication in forwarding the message to the intended audience.

Critically evaluating the literature

One of the key roles of any literature review is to show critical interpretation and evaluation of the literature (Akwanya, 2015). When taking notes and researching, you can develop this critical evaluation by asking yourself questions such as:

- What are the strengths and weaknesses/limitations of the different bodies of literature/studies you are reviewing?
- What accounts for authors' different findings-how can these be explained (e.g. theory or methodology adopted etc.)? The related sources should be hold and the story must move forward on same base.
- To which issues, gaps, ambiguities, unresolved problems, etc. in the literature do you wish to particularly draw attention and why?
- What are the implications of your discussions? (Don't leave your reader thinking: "This is an interesting piece of critical analysis, but what's the point of it all?" "So what?")

When it comes to writing up the literature review, one can use language to show your critical interpretation and evaluation. For example, take a look at the words in bold in the sample text below (Chandran & Raj, 2016). How do they show interpretation and evaluation?

Differences between language and literature:

1. Language is a set of words to express our ideas to others. This is a means through which we express our thoughts. Without language, it is not possible for any human to express their thoughts. Hence, it can be evidently stated that literature has no existence without language.
2. Literature is produced by the creation of works in a particular language by the writer of the language. On the other hand, language is a mode of expression of thoughts by means of articulate sound. There can be as many literatures as there are languages.
3. A language comprises of sounds, words and sentences. While literature is made up of the thoughts expressed in any given language.
4. Thus it can be said that literature has several forms which are called literary forms like



prose, poetry, drama, novel, epic, short stories etc. All these literary forms are laden with language in which it is written. In short it can be said that the entire literature is constructed by the language in which it is written.

5. Language is the method of expression whereas literature is the collection of such expression in the said forms mentioned above. Any literature can be said to be rich or poor depending upon the correctness of the language in which it is created.

Literature reviews

(Akwanya, 2015) The variety of human activities and needs gives rise to a plurality of language functions, among them communication. However, communication is so highly rated that for many this is not merely a function, but the key factor that defines the reality of language. This high rating of communication has important consequences. For example, the variety of functions tends to be reduced to forms of communication. On the other hand, it leaves language in an environment to function in anonymity and pure transparency, becoming a point of serious discussion only within academic linguistics. Among literary scholars, it is either ignored just as in the common usage or it is discussed under one theme or another of academic linguistics. Between these two extremes, however, lies a deep question as to what language is to literature. This is the question opened up in this paper; and it is postulated that an adequate account of the relation of language and literature may only be attempted within a theory of literature.

(Chandran & Raj, 2016) It is clearly known that an ideal literary text with good quality can stimulate the language learning among the readers and it can elicit a wide range of responses from the learners which are facilitating for language learning. It can stimulate imagination of the learners, make them use new beautiful words in their conversation .It helps them to involve in various fruitful discussions. It creates personal involvement in the learning process and brings out clear picture about different cultures and nationalities by making them familiar with the norms and behaviors of the people and helps in cultural enrichment.

(Behin, 1997) This study is about the role of language in creating the culturally-formulated 'literary effect'. Approaching this topic, I have adopted a literature as a culturally standpoint, meaning that I have regarded literature as a cultural product whose effect should be determined in its connection with the real world. For this reason, I have taken a rather critical view of the linguistic approaches to literature which fosters the notion of the literature effect as a product of mainly literature use and textual strategies. To achieve a more comprehensive account of the literacy effect, on the other hand, I have drawn on more practical views found on postmodern studies of language, literature and society.

(Idapalapati, 2012) In view of the conflicting views about the traditional literature based vs. authentic materials in teaching English as a second and foreign language as well as English for academic and specific purposes, a brief survey about the benefits of the materials reveals that the literature based materials can capture the attention of the learners by connecting the content to the real time situations more impressively and artistically than authentic materials and can make the learning more meaningful. The information required has been collected in the form of questionnaires and oral interviews and an analysis of the data has been presented in the narrative form in combination with the accounts of analyses of the review of similar literature.

(Ansari, n.d.) The words, language and literature are familiar to every literate person. Perhaps



these are the two words which are most commonly used by the literate people because language and literature are used not only for literary works but also for medical science, computer science and all other subjects of studies. We often hear a professor of medicine telling his students. "I will supply you the literature on the function of the brain" or a professor of computer science talking about the language of computer and its literature. But very few people know the real meaning of language and literature in a wide sense. In this paper we propose to discuss the definition, meaning, function of language and literature and the difference between language and literature. We also propose to discuss the purpose , aim and benefit of studying literature. We study language because we want to speak and communicate with others but why do we study literature? What are the benefits of studying literature in this scientific age? Isn't it the wastage of time and energy to study poetry, novels, short stories or drama?

Conclusion

The role of literature plays a vital role in respect to teaching, expressing views and writing. The words used while communicating verbally may not always be appropriate while writing. In verbal communication, one has the benefit of expressions or gets a second chance to explain. But these factors are not available while writing. Most of the writers, especially young writers are not aware of the role of language in literature. The basic principles of language are always neglected and use of synonyms changes the meaning of the content. It is important to understand the significance of using correct form of literature. The authors must be availed with proper certification programme for the same. In addition, the school teachers should also be certified with such programmes as they are the shapers of the future.

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