

First year

Lecture 3

Literature

1-Definition of literature :

Literature is any written works. Literature refers to writing considered as an art form or any single writing seemed to have artistic or intellectual value. It derives from the Latin word *litera* meaning letter or handwriting. -According to Webster dictionary, literature is anything that is printed, as long as it is related to the ideas and feelings of people, whether it is true or just a product of one's imagination. -Literature is said to be the product of the life process. It is the life itself. -Literature is an oral or written record of man's thought feelings and aspirations.

2-The history of literature:

*The history of literature follow closely the development of civilization. Ancient literature along with Sumerian literature are considered the world's oldest literature.

*In English, the word literature goes back to the 14th century, but the aesthetic (artistic) literature is basically used in the 19th and 20th centuries.

*In the late 18th century a second meaning of literature is developed; it became not only using letters to express ideas and feeling, but also the professional writer's occupation (the production of book).

*The root of all modern academic fields can be found in literature work. It is a means to know about everything that concerns human life and history. Authors often include historical moments in their works.

*In the period of the English romanticism, the central aesthetic terms were poetry and poem. In the beginning of romanticism with its stress on the activity of the poet. This period stressed the idea that literature exists universally but it is regarded differently in a different cultures and different periods. *Through the study of past literature, we are able to learn about how society has evolved during each of the different periods all throughout history.

3-Two broad categories of literature:

A-Utilitarian:

Utilitarian is the literature of knowledge. Its main aim is to supply information (it appeals to the mind). It is factual, objective, impartial, and uses direct language. Examples: news articles, encyclopedia, textbooks.

B-Artistic/ Aesthetic:

Artistic/ Aesthetic is the literature of power. Its aims to arouse the interest of humans (It appeals to feeling and emotions). It is fanciful, subjective, partial, and uses indirect or figurative language. Examples: short stories, novels, poems...

4-Literature genre:

Literature has three forms: poetry, prose and drama.

A-Poetry :

It is language written with rhythm, figurative language and emotionally charged language. Poetry has traditionally been distinguished from prose by its being set in verse.

B-Prose:

It is also called "ordinary writing". It contains sentences and paragraphs, without any metrical (or rhyming) structure. Prose is a form of language that has no formal metrical structure. It applies a natural flow of speech, and ordinary grammatical structure, rather than rhythmic structure.

It has two types:

Fiction: novels, short stories, myths...

Non-fiction: news, reports, journals, articles, essays...

C-Drama :

It is a story written to be performed by actors. Although a drama is meant to be performed, one can also read the script or written version, and imagine the action. In other words, drama is designed to be performed and it is made of dialogues.

5-The importance of learning literature:

- Learning literature improves our language proficiency.
- Learning literature enhances our understanding about the other cultures.
- Learning literature shapes our goals and values by clarifying our identity both positively and negatively.
- Learning literature helps us grow personally and intellectually.
- Learning literature shows us the beautiful sides of language

References:

<http://www.efdergi.hacettepe.edu.tr/19916FARUK%20TÜRKER.pdf>

-From Wikipedia