**Lecture Five : Literature**

1. **Definition**

Literature is derived from the Latin word *litera* meaning letter or handwriting. It refers to writing considered as an art form or any single writing seemed to have artistic or intellectual value; it can be an oral or written record of man’s thought feelings and aspirations. Literature is said to be the product of the life process. It is the life itself.

1. **Categories of Literature**
   1. **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. Utilitarian literature includes news articles, encyclopedia, and textbooks.
   2. **Artistic/ Aesthetic:** Artistic/ Aesthetic is the literature of power. Its aims to arouse the interest of humans (It appeals to feelings and emotions). It is fanciful, subjective, partial, and uses indirect or figurative language. Artistic literature can be short stories, novels, poems…
2. **Literature Genres**

Literature has three forms: poetry, prose and drama.

* 1. **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.
  2. **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…

* 1. **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.

**4. The Importance of Learning Literature**

- Learning literature improves our language proficiency.

- Learning literature enhances our understanding of 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.