

Language and literature have served us since ages in unique ways. When we come across the two words language and literature, we fail to understand the dependence of one to another. The major question is: whether language interfaces literature or literature interfaces language? In the light of the above controversy my intention is to discuss the definition, function of language and literature, the difference between language and literature and finally understanding language and literature as complementary components.

In our daily speech we generally take language and literature as a same thing. For us both of them have the same meaning. If you ask any teacher of English, "what do you teach?" He would say "language and literature". When he says this, he does not make any difference between language and literature. He takes them as one thing as a compound word. In fact we use language and literature as a single compound word having the one meaning. But it is not so in reality. The word, language, has been originally derived from Latin word, 'Lingua' which means 'tongue'. When we use language in general, it refers to the cognitive faculty which enables us to learn and use systems of complex communication. Literature can be defined as "writing and illustration which is concerned with exploring the value and meaning of human experience by imaginative recreation in language" (Hill 207). English has become an international important language, more and more people are studying it. "The study of literature allows people to develop new ideas and ethical standpoints, and can help individuals to present themselves as educated members of society. Studying literature can be enriching, eye-opening experience" (www.eHow.com).

If we take into consideration the functions of language and literature, it varies. They may be in the following ways : (i) Language is a set of words to express our ideas to others. This is a means through which we express our thoughts. Without means we cannot express our thoughts. On the other hand, literature is the thought which is expressed with the help of language. Thus it is clear that without language there is no existence of literature because without language we cannot express our thoughts. Language is the fundamental unit of literature. It can be said that language makes literature. (ii) A language comprises of sounds, words and sentences. However, literature is made up of the thoughts expressed in any given language. (iii) 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. (iv) 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.

Language was originated when the early men, having different cultures, started co-operating with one another. At this time they needed a common language to convey their thoughts and ideas to others. So they invented a sign language which soon became very common. But, as the human being's nature is, they were not satisfied with the sign language. They wanted to convert their thoughts into words and wanted to hear the thoughts. So they started finding words which may produce sound. Ultimately they succeeded and the language with sound came into existence. Since the people had different cultures and regions, different languages came into existence. After the invention of language they learnt the art of writing and, as a result, started expressing themselves in writing. Whatever they wrote was preserved and thus in this way literature came into existence. Thus we see that literature is the product of language and so it depends on language. Language is primary and literature is secondary.

No doubt, literature is the byproduct of language. However it does not diminish the importance of literature. There are still good reasons for the study of English Literature. Different people study literature for different reasons. Some study for entertainment and pleasures, some for getting information whereas some for spiritual purposes. It can, thus, be said that the reason of study may vary from people to people, but literature benefits all the people who study literature.

Leo-Tolstoy, the Russian writer said while defining literature that literature fails if it cannot answer the two fundamental questions: who we are and how shall we live. If literature does not teach us how to live and does tell our identification as human beings, then it is something else, not literature in a true sense. Literature tells us who we are and how should we live in this world. It means that the literature has completely encompassed our life, since our birth to our death (www.classic-enotes.com). Literature is a world in itself because it can take everything in its range. The language also attains its ultimate through literature. Therefore, before making a study of mankind, we should go through the literature it has created. Literature is the mirror of our lives in which we see the reflections of our lives. Literature, in its most comprehensive meaning, includes all the activities of human soul in general, or within particular sphere, period, country, or a language. The scope of literature is very wide. It can cover everything which is on the earth. In fact the scope of literature is everything that can come into the human mind. Since literature reflects life, so the scope of literature covers the whole life of every man.

Reasons for Using Literary Texts in Foreign Language Classes According to Collie and Slater (3), there are four main reasons which lead a language teacher to use literature in the classroom. These are valuable authentic material, cultural enrichment, language enrichment and personal involvement.

Literature develops thinking skills. It trains us in the field of high order and high thinking. It enlightens our imaginative power of the mind. Discussions of literature bring out reasoning related to sequence; cause and effect; character motivation; predictions; visualization of actions, characters, and settings; critical analysis of the story; and creative responses.

The ideals of history, science or the society are glorified through literature. Literature is like a historical document of the people of a particular age because it records not only their deeds, customs and habit but also their dreams, their thoughts which made their deeds possible. That is why Aristotle has said that "poetry is more serious and philosophical than history". Many people criticize literature as a mere play of imagination without any practical importance. But, in fact, they themselves have not fully understand the literature. Literature is very near to our life and truth because it preserves the ideals of people which are the part of human life. Multicultural literature helps readers value people from different races, ethnic groups, and cultures. Literature helps in sociolinguistic richness. The use of language changes from one social group to another. Likewise, it changes from one geographical location to another. A person speaks differently in different social contexts like school, hospital, police station and theatre (i.e. formal, informal, casual, frozen, intimate styles speech). The language used changes from one profession to another (i.e. doctors, engineers, economists use different terminology). To put it differently, since literature provides students with a wide range of language varieties like sociolects, regional dialects, jargon, idiolects, etc., it develops their sociolinguistic competence in the target language. Traditionally, the role of Literature was not taken into consideration in English Language Teaching programs due to the importance given only to functional language.

Today, Literature in second language classes has a very important linguistic input for students and it is a valuable source for learners' motivation.