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Literature's Impact In Scripting Society

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ABSTRACT

Literature serves as a vital reflection of society, mirroring its values, struggles, and evolution while also shaping societal behavior and norms. As a profound form of expression, it conveys both the virtues and ills of a community, prompting self-awareness and change. From Shakespeare's enduring depiction of Elizabethan drama to Chaucer's authentic portrayal of medieval society in *The Canterbury Tales*, literature highlights the intricate relationship between societal context and artistic creation. Writers often draw inspiration from their surroundings, addressing pressing issues such as social injustices, as seen in Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* or Chinua Achebe's *No Longer At Ease*. Literature also fosters socialization by embodying societal philosophies, cultural nuances, and collective wisdom, thereby promoting functional and progressive societies. Through its timeless nature, it captures the spirit of eras and serves as a lighthouse guiding societal development. By engaging with complex emotions, morals, and intellectual considerations, literature ultimately educates and inspires humanity. Its role as a mirror ensures that society continuously introspects and evolves for the better. Thus, literature holds immense significance in shaping individuals and communities alike.

Keywords: Literature, Society, Reflection, Socialization, Evolution

INTRODUCTION

Literature is an expression of the society and it is commonly known by all as the mirror of the society. It is a way and an art of expression and it can be expressed through fictions and novels. It has been used in various communities to address different issues that impact in every individual life. Through this we know literature can shape society by educating the public on how to live by following three unities Time, Place and Action. Many writers are also influenced by the occurrences in the community when writing their works. Thus, various aspects can be analyzed using different texts to show that literature is an essential aspect that impacts the behaviours of individuals in a society.

LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Society influences literature in many ways, and the connections of literature with society are integral and pervasive. The relation between literature and society is highly complex, and it is very difficult to determine which element of society has exerted influence on literature. The literature of Shakespeare's day is a very good illustration of how societal circumstances influenced the literature of the day. What strikes every reader today is the distinction between the poetic or narrative literature and the vivid Elizabethan drama, which, in its best examples, stands as nobly as on its first day, speaking directly to us and appearing imperishable because of its psychological vitality and true representation of life. The literature of an age, and its social set up keeping and reacting one over the other. Literature influences the society. Society is reflected in Literature and in this way, in all languages and at all times there has been a close interaction between the two. Chaucer is regarded as the founder of English poetry, and in a sense, he is the source of English literature's form and vocabulary, which have continued to evolve and improve. The Canterbury Tales Prologue and Canterbury Tales itself are his most famous works. All the characters painted in these tales are the true representation of the types of such people as they were in his times. While Chaucer is a reflector of those characters and their types of his age. Characters like a Knight; the Prioress; the monk, the fat fryer, the sailor, the squire, the priest all are truly the representatives of their types in the contemporary society. Shakespeare, the greatest dramatist of English language one of the greatest of all languages brings in 'ghosts', 'witches', and 'courtier' and 'fools' in his plays which became more popular among the audience (Sarkar, Subha).

ROLE OF LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Literature indeed reflects the society, its good values and its ills. In its corrective function, literature mirrors the ills of the society with a view to making the society realize its mistakes and make amends. It also projects the virtues or good values in the society for people to emulate. In “Death of a Salesman”, Arthur Miller raises the issue of victimization of workers by the capitalist employers. The play reflects what happens in the American capitalist society. The tragic hero, Willy Loman, serves a company for thirty years; he helps the company to open new grounds in many places but in his old age, they take his salary away. The play exposes inhumanity of some employers to their employees whom they use and dump without regard for their wellbeing. “No Longer At Ease” by Chinua Achebe describes the issues and difficulties that the newly formed African administrative elite encountered as well as the reasons behind this careless class of leaders’ downfall, which is personified by Obi Okonkwo, the protagonist of the book. The novel reflects society and demonstrates how government policies and societal misconceptions about the value of education combine to create leaders who are ethically and intellectually bankrupt. The book also illustrates how expectations and demands from families and society. Good literature is one which reaches out to people and makes an impact on the society (*Study Corgi*).

LITERATURE AND SOCIALIZATION

Literature reflects societal mores and etiquette as well as the philosophy, culture, subjectivity, objectivity, and collective wisdom that drive society. Each of these factors has an impact on

the fundamental ideas that support a society and make it functional and successful. Complex emotions and symbols, morals and intellectual considerations are engaged by literature to show its artistic form. Literature thus is the soul of the society which can teach the man how to live and one of the main mottoes of literature is “to live and let to live” (Dinkar, Ramdharisinh, 2008).

LITERATURE A MIRROR OF A SOCIETY

Literature is a mirror of society and has the power to shape the thought processes of entire eras. Poetry and prose writers capture the evolution of people and society in their works, which aids in our ability to categorize them into different eras. Because it is a reflection of its era, the genre or writing style of a piece

of literature can be used to identify it. Public opinion can also be expressed through literature in a variety of genres. Literature is the lighthouse for every culture which shows the true image of the culture and its development (Harrington, Austin, 2004).

CONCLUSION

Literature is a reflection of human civilization, a replica of human existence and behavior. Literature acts as a mirror for society's members to look at themselves and recognize the need for constructive change, in addition to reflecting society.

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