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# LANGUAGE THROUGH LITERATURE

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# QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

LANGUAGE THROUGH LITERATURE **B.E.G.L.A.-137**

Time: 3 Hours ]

[ Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Attempt all questions.

Q. 1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

As human beings, we are constantly interacting with one another and forming opinions about the characters of those around us. A character in literature and drama, is the representation of a person or people in a story or play. Characters can be fictional or based on real people, and they can be the protagonist, the main character in the story or the antagonist, the character who opposes the protagonist.

In literature and drama, the character is often described using physical, emotional and psychological traits. The physical traits of a character can be described using details such as their height, weight, hair colour and clothing. The emotional traits of a character can be described using details such as their mood, temperament and attitude. The psychological traits of a character can be described using details such as their motivations, beliefs and values.

It is important to note that a character's trait can change throughout the story, as the character goes through different experiences and learns from them. This may be called character development.

Questions:

(a) What is character in literature and drama?

Ans. A character in literature and drama, is the representation of a person or people in a story or play.

(b) What are three main ways in which a character can be described?

Ans. In literature and drama, the character is often described using physical, emotional and psychological traits. The physical traits of a character can be described using details such as their height, weight, hair colour and clothing. The emotional traits of a character can be described using details such as their mood, temperament and attitude.

(c) How can a character's trait change throughout a story?

Ans. A character's trait can change throughout the story, as the character goes through different experiences and learns from them. This may be called character development.

(d) How can a character's psychological traits be described?

Ans. The psychological traits of a character can be described using details such as their motivations, beliefs and values.

(e) What is the difference between a protagonist and an antagonist in a story?

Ans. Characters can be fictional or based on real people, and they can be the protagonist, the main character in the story or the antagonist, the character who opposes the protagonist.

Q. 2. Add prefixes to the following words to make opposites:

(a) Comfortable

(b) Necessary

(c) Like

(d) Valid

(e) Regard

Ans. (a) Un-comfortable, (b) Unnecessary, (c) Dislike, (d) Invalid, (e) Dis-regard.

Q. 3. Complete the following sentences using appropriate conjunctions:

(a) He ran away ..... he was terrified.

(b) He was ill ..... he did not come to school.

(c) He was short of money ..... he borrowed the required amount from a friend.

(d) He works seven days a week ..... make both ends meet.

(e) Jupiter is bigger ..... Mars.

Ans. (a) as, (b) so, (c) so, (d) to, (e) than.

**Q. 4. Define any two of the following literary devices with suitable examples in about 100 words each:**

**(a) Synecdoche.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-6, Page No. 48, 'Synecdoche'.

**(b) Understatement.**

**Ans.** An understatement is a figure of speech when a speaker makes the situation seem less important or severe than what it is. The remark makes something seem smaller. An understatement adds humor to serious situations. When verbal, the speaker delivers the statement without expression for effect. Understatement is the description of something as having much less of a particular quality than it does. That often involves representing something as less important, less valuable, or smaller than it is.

Understatement is the opposite of hyperbole, the term that Professor Elena Passarello explains in her video. Her video is not bad. That's an understatement. It's an understatement because I've described something that is very good—the video on hyperbole—in a much less positive way: that is, "not bad." Understatements usually involve what is called verbal irony. Verbal irony occurs when what is literally said is different from what is meant. In this case, the literal statement that the video is "not bad" is different from what I mean, which is that it is very good.

**(c) Tension.**

**Ans.** Tension in a literary context is the sense that something ominous is right around the corner. Building a large amount of tension as a writer keeps your readers engaged up until the end of the story. Mystery novels are full of tension and foreboding, and they generally feature tense scenes from beginning to end. Working within the genre of mystery writing is a great way to learn how to layer tension into your narrative arc. Good use of tension makes a story worth reading and keeps readers guessing. Learning to build tension is no easy task. Even the most seasoned professional writers have trouble maintaining tension from beginning to end.

**(d) Paradox.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-7, Page No. 58, 'Paradox'.

**Q. 5. Write short notes on any two of the following with suitable examples:**

**(a) Allegory.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-8, Page No. 62, 'Allegory'.

**(b) Hyperbole.**

**Ans.** A hyperbole is a rhetorical device that is mainly used to make something look and sound a lot better than it actually is. In other words, it can be said to be a form of exaggeration. The Oxford Learner's Dictionary defines a hyperbole as "a way of speaking or writing that makes something sound better, more exciting, more dangerous, etc. than it really is". According to the Collins Dictionary, a hyperbole is an expression that is used to "say or write things that make something sound much more impressive than it really is". It would be a lot simpler and easier to comprehend if you take a look at some example sentences. So, check out the following examples taken from literature and a few common everyday expressions and try to analyse them.

**(c) Euphemism.**

**Ans.** A euphemism is an innocuous word or expression used in place of one that is deemed offensive or suggests something unpleasant. Some euphemisms are intended to amuse, while others use bland, inoffensive terms for concepts that the user wishes to downplay. Euphemisms may be used to mask profanity or refer to topics some consider taboo such as disability, sex, excretion, or death in a polite way.

Euphemism comes from the Greek word euphemia (ἠποῖσιβᾶ) which refers to the use of 'words of good omen'; it is a compound of eū (ἄν), meaning 'good, well', and phmç (ὀπιç), meaning 'prophetic speech; rumour, talk'. Eupheme is a reference to the female Greek spirit of words of praise and positivity, etc. The term euphemism itself was used as a euphemism by the ancient Greeks; with the meaning "to keep a holy silence" (speaking well by not speaking at all).

**(d) Onomatopoeia.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-5, Page No. 39, 'Onomatopoeia'.

**Q. 6. Correct the following sentences:**

**(a) Me and my friends went to the park to play soccer.**

**Ans.** My friend and I went to the park to play soccer.

**(b) She don't like Pizza but she likes Pasta.**

**Ans.** She like Pizza, but don't like Pasta.

**(c) The book, which was written by J.K. Rowling is my favourite.**

**Ans.** The book written by J.K. Rowling is my favourite.

**(d) I went to the store to buy some apples and oranges, but they was all sold out.**

# **Sample Preview of The Chapter**

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# LANGUAGE THROUGH LITERATURE

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## Literal Versus Metaphorical Meaning

1

### INTRODUCTION

As we study English literature we can feel that language used in the literature is different from the ordinary language. So, in this chapter we will study and understand the relationship of language to literature. It is important for us to understand the dynamic nature of 'Words' and how creative writers/orators manipulate them in particular contexts to bring about special effects. Will study the difference between literal meanings and extended meanings, use some of the important words in their extended senses in order to write more effectively.

### CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

#### LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Language is basically a system of communication that enables the transfer of information. It takes into consideration both written and spoken mediums of communication. It is more of an abstract form using symbols and meanings. It comprises words, sentences, and sounds. The combination of these elements helps the information of a language. Literature refers to the written aspect of communication. Any form of written communication is said to be literature. It is a collection of expressions. These expressions are communicated via language. The purpose of language is to express ideas, opinions, emotions, and knowledge. Whereas, the purpose of literature is to capture those expressions of language. There can be as much literature as languages. These two can be classified into two groups, i.e., non-literary and literary languages,

Literal language is language that means exactly what it says. It uses words by their dictionary definitions. "I am going to the store" is literal language.

The opposite of literal language is non-literal language. These are words and phrases that do not mean exactly what they say. You probably hear these words and phrases all the time. For example, say you are really angry at your friend. He might tell you to "chill." The dictionary meaning of chill is "to become cold." Your friend is not telling you to put yourself into your freezer. He is telling you to relax. He is using chill as a non-literal language. People use non-literal words and phrases for many reasons. Non-literal words and phrases help express feelings. They help show how one thing is like another. They also help create images in a reader's mind. They can make a text more fun to read.

Figurative language takes many different forms in linguistics and literature. A simile is a comparison of two things using the words "like" or "as." A metaphor is a more direct comparison of two things. In "*The Great Gatsby*," author F. Scott Fitzgerald could have used a simile such as, "When she spoke it sounded like gold coins clinking together," to describe the seeming promise of riches in the character Daisy's voice. Instead he used a metaphor: "Her voice was full of money." Personification imparts animate qualities to an inanimate object, as in the phrase, "the laughing brook." Periphrasis uses a descriptive phrase in place of a simple noun. An example would be the phrase, "the heavy blanket of winter," which substitutes "heavy blanket" for snow.

As a medium of communication Language Functions mainly through two modes, i.e., spoken and written. The spoken medium is used in our daily communication, and the written medium in all our writings and readings, official or otherwise. Some of the differences are as below:



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Speech	Writing
1. We speak and listen to speech – so vocal and auditory systems are used.	1. We write, and read what is written and hence it involves our visual capacity
2. Speech ( <i>minus</i> the recording system) is transient. For it dissipates in air after it is spoken.	2. Writing can be presented as record.
3. Speech has different degrees of pauses and it uses intonation contours for statements, questions, special focus, etc.	3. Writing exploits punctuations to give a rhythm of language; and also we can have diagrams, graphs, charts and equations in writing.
4. Speaker and hearer are generally close and here there is greater integration between the two.	4. Writing generally, involves some distance between the writer and the reader and hence it involves distance between the interlocutors.
5. Since the interlocutors are present, which is assumed, resulting in utterances which are grammatically incomplete.	5. Due to distance, writing generally is more grammatically complete.

Writing can be presented as a record. Writing exploits punctuations to give a rhythm of language; and also we can have diagrams, graphs, charts and equations in writing. Writing generally, involves some distance between the writer and the reader and hence it involves distance between the interlocutors. Due to distance, writing generally is more grammatically complete. Although the two are different modes of language but they are not entirely exclusive, e.g., we can find elements of speech in written dialogues as in novels and dramas, or even have the written form in speech as in the news broadcast/telecast over the radio/TV. All dramas (plays) are constructed on the pattern of oral speech (dialogues). Dialogues in drama function at two levels as shown in the diagram below from Short (1989: 49) [M. Short 1989: *Discourse analysis and the Analysis of Drama*. In R. Carter and P. Simpson (eds) *Language, Discourse and Literature*, London: Unwin Hyman.]

Addressor 1 — • Message — • Addressee 1  
(playwright) (audience/reader)

Addressor 2 — • Message — • Addressee 2  
(character A) (character B)

This diagram shows that the playwright addresses the audience/reader through constructed dialogues at one level, and at another level it is the characters within the play that are shown to interact with one another. All dialogues get meaning from the created 'Physical' context and the 'personal' context. By physical context, we mean creation of environments like home, workplace, etc. and the personal context encompasses social status and groups memberships by virtue of which characters speak. About dialogues you will learn more in later Blocks. In writing, we generally come across two varieties of speech – the 'direct' speech and the 'indirect' speech. Look at the two structures below:

1. She said, "I'll come here tomorrow"
- Or
2. 'I'll come here tomorrow,' she said
3. She said that she would go there the following day. (Indirect speech)

Direct Speech

In direct speech, we have the reporting verb which can be different from the tense of the reported speech in inverted commas. The indirect speech changes the pronouns, the adverbs of time, and the tense of the reported speech etc. In novels and short stories, we find a third variety called the 'Free Indirect Discourse' (FID). The FID combines elements from both the direct

speech and the indirect speech and it functions to present a 'stream of consciousness', etc. The above sentence can be rendered in FID as:

4. She would be there tomorrow.

Here the adverb 'tomorrow' has the form as in the direct speech and the phrase 'she would' as in the indirect speech, and the higher reporting verb as 'she said' is missing. The FID expressions at times do carry

the punctuation marks found in direct speech such as questions mark or sign of interrogation, etc.

### LITERAL VERSUS METAPHORICAL MEANING

Literal and Metaphorical meaning of words refer to use of words in writing or speaking a language. Literal meaning is the most commonly used and ordinary meaning of a word. For example the word 'light' has been used literally in the following sentence:

He switched on the light.

However, the metaphorical meaning of a word is more imaginative. It is symbolic of something else. Its use makes the language more appealing and stylistic. Often famous authors, poets, philosophers, etc. use metaphorical language. For example the word 'light' has been used metaphorically in the following sentence:

He is the light of the world.

Some other sentences having metaphorical expressions are given below:

He is drowned in a sea of grief.

His mind is a placid lake of serenity.

As adjectives the difference between metaphorical and literal is that **metaphorical** is pertaining to or characterized by a metaphor; figurative; symbolic while **literal** is exactly as stated; read or understood without additional interpretation; according to the letter or verbal expression; real; not figurative or metaphorical.

As a noun literal is (programming) a value, as opposed to an identifier, written into the source code of a computer program.

#### CHECK YOUR PROGRESS - 1

**Q. In the sentences below, a number of words have been used twice – once in the literal sense and the second time in an extended sense. Write 'L' beside the sentence in which the word in italics is used in the literal sense. Write 'E' where it is used in an extended sense.**

(i) He was angry with me because I had broken his pen \_\_\_\_\_.

(ii) Huge waves rose in the angry sea. \_\_\_\_\_.

(iii) They fired at the house. The bullets buried themselves in the wall. \_\_\_\_\_.

(iv) 'Three nights later old Major died peacefully in his sleep. His body was buried at the foot of the orchard.'

### LITERAL VERSUS METAPHORICAL MEANING / 3

(v) Death is a true friend. \_\_\_\_\_.

(vi) In ancient times, the Romans brought slaves from battles. \_\_\_\_\_.

(vii) Rajesh is my best *end*. \_\_\_\_\_.

(viii) I was exposed as a slave of habit even in so trading a matter as getting the first cigarette out of a new packet. \_\_\_\_\_.

(ix) Chakki's peace of mind was shattered. \_\_\_\_\_.

(x) A glass pane of our window was shattered by a cricket ball. \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans. (i) – L, (ii) – E, (iii) – E, (iv) – L, (v) – E, (vi) – L, (vii) – L, (viii) – E, (ix) – E, (x) – L.**

### EXTENSION OF MEANING

#### From a Concrete Object to an Abstract Idea

**Concrete Terms** refer to objects or events that are available to the senses. Examples of concrete terms include: *spoon, table, velvet eye patch, nose ring, sinus mask, green, hot, walking*. **Abstract Terms** refer to ideas or concepts; they have no physical referents. Examples of abstract terms include *love, success, freedom, good, moral, democracy*. When we use a concrete object word with its meaning transferred or extended to which we can feel and see to an abstract idea. This helps to make the idea vivid and becomes easier to 'see' the idea or visualize it in concrete terms with the help of a word-picture.

#### CHECK YOUR PROGRESS - 2

**Q. Read the following sentences.**

The italicized words have been used in an extended sense. An abstract idea has been concretized. Say how the transference has taken place.

(i) Our conversation *drifted* from cricket to politics.

**Ans.** In a literal sense we can say that 'logs drift in the river'. They float and are driven along by the waves. The logs have no control over their movement. Likewise the conversation changed gradually from cricket to politics without the speakers being conscious of it.

(ii) When her husband died, all her hopes for the future *crumbled* to nothing.

**Ans.** Anything that falls apart, especially into small bits, can be said to crumble. For example, when an expensive pot slipped from Pavitra's hand, it crumbled (into small pieces). Similarly, in the sentence given above it means all her future hopes were shattered.

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(iii) **The military government has successfully crushed all opposition.**

**Ans.** Whenever an object is crushed, it breaks into very small pieces. In the above sentence the opposition in the same way has been destroyed to that extent, it has become powerless.

(iv) **The animals absorbed everything that they were told.**

**Ans.** Whenever we say something absorbs water it means that it takes water in. In the same manner stated in the above sentence as the animals listened to and understood everything they were told. They took in all that had been said.

(v) **Karuthamma's whole body became bathed in perspiration.**

**Ans.** Bathed word is generally used as the whole body is washed with water. Here, in the above sentence perspiration covered the whole body.

(vi) **Age is my alarm clock, the old man said. 'Why do old men wake so early? Is it to have one longer day?' (From Ernest Hemingway: *The Old Man and the Sea*).**

**Ans.** As we know that people use an alarm-clock to wake up early in the morning. In the sentence it means that when one grows older one loses some sleep. So because of his old age he naturally gets up early.

(vii) **The shop man, in some dim cavern of his mind, may have dared to think so too.**

**Ans.** As the light in a cavern or cave is always dim. In the same way the ideas in the mind of a shopman were hazy.

(viii) **They heard the newcomer's shrill voice raised in a torrent of abuse.**

**Ans.** As a torrent of water is a violently rushing stream of water. In the same way in the above sentence the newcomer used a torrent of bad language or abuse.

(ix) **As long as she doesn't break the peace, I have nothing to do with her.**

**Ans.** When an object is broken into parts means it's finished. In the same way in the above statement if peace is broken, it means that it has come to an end.

(x) **When lights were brought and Wolfgang had a better opportunity of looking at the stranger, he was more than even intoxicated by her beauty.**

**Ans.** Generally, someone is usually intoxicated by alcohol, which causes a loss of one's control of actions and feelings. The sentence given above means 'her beauty' has a similar effect on Wolfgang. It brought out strong feelings of wild excitement which he could not control.

**Living (Animal or Human) to Non-Living (Object) and Vice-Versa**

Sometimes people describe non-living objects or things by comparing them with some animal or human qualities and feelings, which implies attribute a personal nature or human characteristics to something non-human. They transfer qualities or things usually associated with living beings to non-living things which helps to picture things and objects more clearly in imagination.

For example:

- April is the cruelest month of the year.
- The radio stared at me.
- The car brakes screamed all through the journey.
- The car stopped with a groaning complaint.
- One leg of the Sofa was broken.
- The warrior has a heart of stone.
- Love is a battlefield.
- Baby, you are my sunshine.
- Chaos is a friend of the legislator.
- I am drowning in a sea of grief.
- My roommate is going through a rollercoaster of emotions.

Here, the transfer of meaning in all the cases has taken place like this:

Living thing 'non-living thing (animal/human)!' (object) e.g., leg of animal leg of sofa

The transfer of extension may be the other way, too; that is,

Non-living thing! living thing e.g.,

He is the person with a dog's tail and will never get straight. This means we talk about some person who will never change as the dog's tail is always round.

**CHECK YOUR PROGRESS - 3**

**Q.** In the following sentences, the italicized words are used in an extended sense. State whether the extension is from living to non-living (personification) or vice-versa. Also say in a few words what idea from the literal use has been transferred. e.g., The plane had to make a belly landing.

**Explanation:** Belly is the part of the human body between the chest and the legs, which contains the stomach and the bowels. It can refer to an object that is curved or round like this part of the body. (Here, the extension is from living to non-living).

Now explain the following.

(i) He is a budding poet.