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LANGUAGE THROUGH LITERATURE

B.E.G.L.A.-137

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**Sample Preview
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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2024

(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 :

In the first week of June 1982, I began a secular pilgrimage deep into the Alakananda valley. My destination was Gopeshwar, a town that clings to a hill somewhat short of Badrinath, and the living deity I wished to pay tribute to was Chandi Prasad Bhatt, founder of the Chipko Movement.

Chandi Prasad Bhatt was born in a family of priest who tended the temple of Rudranath. It is part of the 'Panch Kedar', the five Himalayan temples dedicated to Shiva, the most venerated of which is Kedarnath. As a boy, Chandi Prasad went up often to the family shrine, the journey also alerting him to local traditions of folk ecology. When he walked through the alpine pasture he had to take off his shoes so as not to harm flowers. In one four kilometre stretch above the Amrit Ganga, there was a ban on spitting, coughing and pissing : on anything all the that might cause pollution in the river below. There were taboos on plucking plants before the festival on Nandasthmi, in September.

Once, on the walk to Rudranath, Chandi Prasad met a shepherd burning the flowers of the sacred and beautiful Brahmakamal. He asked why, it being the week of Nandasthmi, and the shepherd answered that he wouldn't have, normally, except his stomach ached horribly and the extract of the flower would cure him. But, the offender quickly added, he had broken off the plant with his mouth, like a sheep, so that the deity would think it nature's natural order rather than the hand of man at work. He acquired such informal education in ecology. He joined the Garhwal Motor Owners Union (GMOU)

as a booking clerk. With the GMOU he was posted up and down the Alakananda villages. He says, his year selling bus tickets alerted him to the social diversity of India.

(Reference of the passage : Fluency in English by MacMillan, Page No. 78)

(a) Why narrator calls his journey a 'secular pilgrimage'?

Ans. The narrator began a secular pilgrimage deep into the Alakananda valley. My destination was Gopeshwar, a town that clings to a hill somewhat short of Badrinath, and the living deity he wished to pay tribute to was Chandi Prasad Bhatt, founder of the Chipko Movement.

(b) Which activity was banned during the week of Nandasthmi festival?

Ans. There was a ban on spitting, coughing and pissing : on anything all the that might cause pollution in the river below. There were taboos on plucking plants before the festival on Nandasthmi.

(c) The incidence of the shepherd in the passage points out what aspect of Indian national life?

Ans. Chandi Prasad met a shepherd burning the flowers of the sacred and beautiful Brahmakamal. He had broken off the plant with his mouth, like a sheep, so that the deity would think it nature's natural order rather than the hand of man at work. He acquired such informal education in ecology.

(d) Find a word from the passage which is same as 'reverence' and make a sentence of the word.

Ans. Venerated: She is venerated as a saint.

(e) Identify and name the liberty device used in the phrase 'secular pilgrimage'.

Ans. The liberty device used in the phrase ‘secular pilgrimage’ is metaphor. This is because ‘secular pilgrimage’ compares a secular journey to a religious pilgrimage, using the concept of pilgrimage to add depth and significance to the secular journey.

Q. 2. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Homophones

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 22, ‘Homophones : Words Having the Same Sounds but Different Spellings’.

(b) Onomatopoeia

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 39, ‘Onomatopoeia’.

(c) Rhythm

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 36, ‘Rhythm’.

(d) Cohesion

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 91, ‘What is Cohesion?’.

Q. 3. Identify and explain the figure of speech in the following sentences:

(a) The plants in her house silently begged to be watered.

Ans. The figure of speech used in the sentence “The plants in her house silently begged to be watered” is personification.

(b) Barry bought a book to bring to the backyard barbecue.

Ans. In the given sentence, ‘Barry bought a book to bring to the backyard barbecue.’ The correct figure of speech in this sentence is metaphor.

(c) Can you spare your wallet ?

Ans. The phrase “can you spare your wallet” is an example of metonymy, a figure of speech that uses one word to refer to something related to it.

(d) He is running faster than the wind.

Ans. “He is running faster than the wind” is an example of hyperbole, a figure of speech that uses exaggeration to emphasize a point or make something seem more important than it is.

(e) Deep down you are really shallow.

Ans. The phrase “deep down, you’re really shallow” is an example of a paradox, a figure of speech that is a contradictory statement that may seem false but is actually true.

Q. 4. Match the modal verbs/phrases with their meanings:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| (A) Must be | (1) Nearly impossible |
| (B) Could be | (2) Almost certain |
| (C) Might be | (3) Possible but unlikely |
| (D) Can’t be | (4) Necessary |
| (E) Need to | (5) Possible |

Ans. Must be: almost certain

Could be: possible

Might be: possible but unlikely

Can’t be: nearly impossible

Need to: necessary.

Q. 5. Complete the sentences by using the correct form of the words given:

(a) The sculpture looks simple. In fact it was extremely complicated to make. (deceive)

(b) Advances in technology mean that the world of film is constantly changes. (Go)

(c) Raj Delhi last weekend. (visit)

(d) My uncle a watch for me on my next birthday. (send)

(e) It heavily yesterday. (rain)

(f) Why does she not to school? (go)

(g) I sugar for Rs. 40 a kilo. (sell)

(h) When we travel, my sister usually

(sleep)

(i) After listening the joke Sumit started

(giggle)

(j) We in the bus tomorrow morning. (travel)

Ans. (i) deceptively, (ii) going for, (iii) visited, (iv) will send, (v) rained, (vi) going, (vii) sold, (viii) sleeps, (viii) giggling, (viii) will travel.

Q. 6. Fill in the blanks in the passage below with the most appropriate idioms given in the box. Make necessary changes to the idioms to make them grammatically fit in with the sentence:

keep/place in perspective; a flair for; established pattern; draw your attention to; like a duck into water; toy with an idea

(a) I would like to the fact that this area has gone without water for a whole week.

Ans. draw your attention to.

(b) Reena took to acting.....

Ans. like a duck into water.

(c) She had singing and dancing which made up for her inability to learn her script.

Sample Preview of The Chapter

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LANGUAGE THROUGH LITERATURE

Literal Versus Metaphorical Meaning



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.

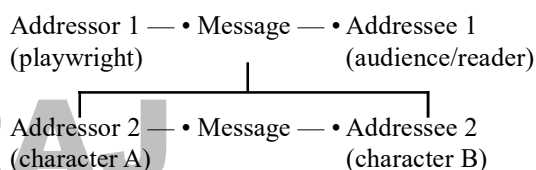
Figurative language takes many different forms in linguistics and literature. A simile is a comparison of two things using the words "like" or "as." A metaphor is a more direct comparison of two things. In "*The Great Gatsby*," author F. Scott Fitzgerald could have used a simile such as, "When she spoke 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/tecast 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.]



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)

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

Direct Speech

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.**