

Status of Literature and Literary Theory in Indian Mindset

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Abstract: In this specific piece of writing, we will use the term "literary studies" to refer to all aspects of research, analysis, or interpretation that are devoted to literature. This includes both academic and non-academic research. According to one school of thinking, data analysis in literary studies should integrate classified and verbal indexing, strive for thesaurus management, and use electronic data processing. This school of thought has been around for quite some time. An explanation of the concept of facet analysis as it relates to literary studies, as well as a discussion of the Modern Language Association (MLA) as a contemporary example of an organization that employs that approach, will be included in this article. In addition, the report will make some brief observations on the widespread limitations of data analysis in this field.

Keywords: Literary Work, Indexing Approach, Verbal Indexing, Pattern Indexing, Facet Classification.

Introduction

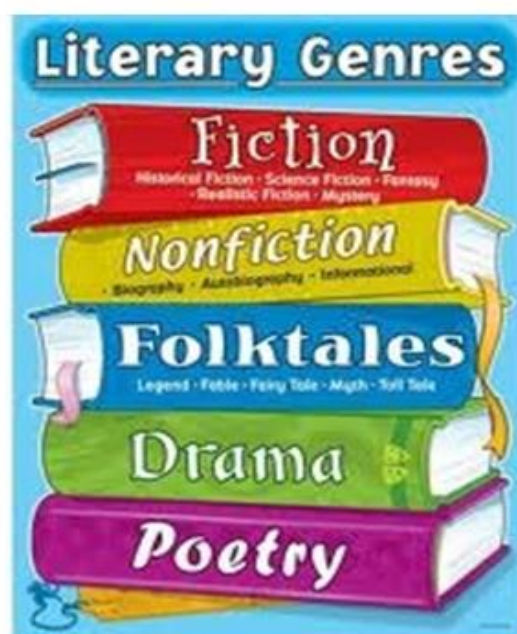
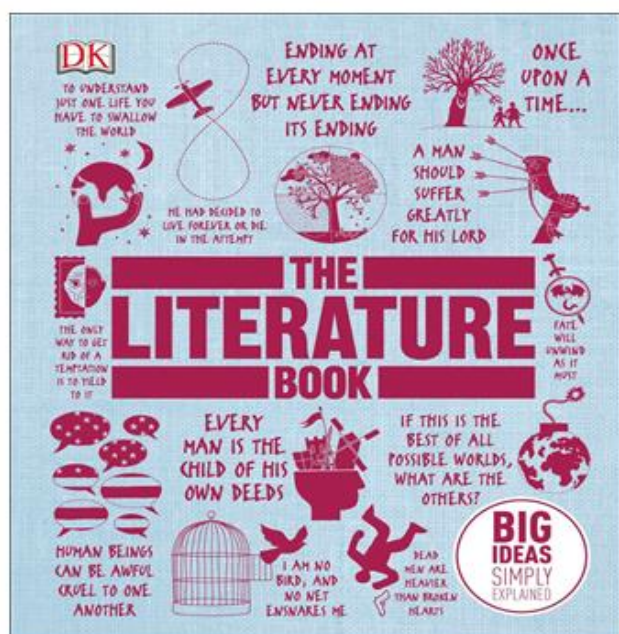
What is Literature?

The term "literature" refers to a collection of works that have been written down. Literature may be classed in various ways; an individual's categorization might include language, national origin, historical period, genre, subject matter, or any combination of these categories.

Students may occasionally declare that literature is subjective when presented with such discrepancies and throw up their hands in

exasperation. Doesn't it depend on the individual and the perspective they take? Students who subscribe to this school of thought believe anything might be deemed a work of literature. At first glance, it could seem that such differences are, at the very least, arbitrary. However, this is not the case. In the worst-case scenario, such definitions serve as an instrument for enforcing the erasure of cultural traditions. This is the worst conceivable outcome.

In an individual's mind, interpreting and evaluating literary texts requires applying a particular set of rules and ideas, which is what literary theory is.



With the aid of literary theory, we may obtain a deeper comprehension of the connection between the author and the work, in addition to the part that gender, social class, and racial identity play in the canon of published works.

Literary theory is both a technique and a tool for critics, who use it to analyze and critique art, literature, and culture from several perspectives. Literary theory is also often seen to be a tool in and of itself.

The first thing that has to be done before we can go on to the next stage of doing an in-depth examination of literature is to precisely define what we mean when we use the term "literature." Other works, such as William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, are almost universally acknowledged as examples of literary achievement. Nevertheless, other works are the topic of fierce debate, and depending on the context, they may either be included or eliminated.

Literature vs. literature

The distinction between "Literature" and "literature" may be found in the capitalization of the word and the context in which it is used.

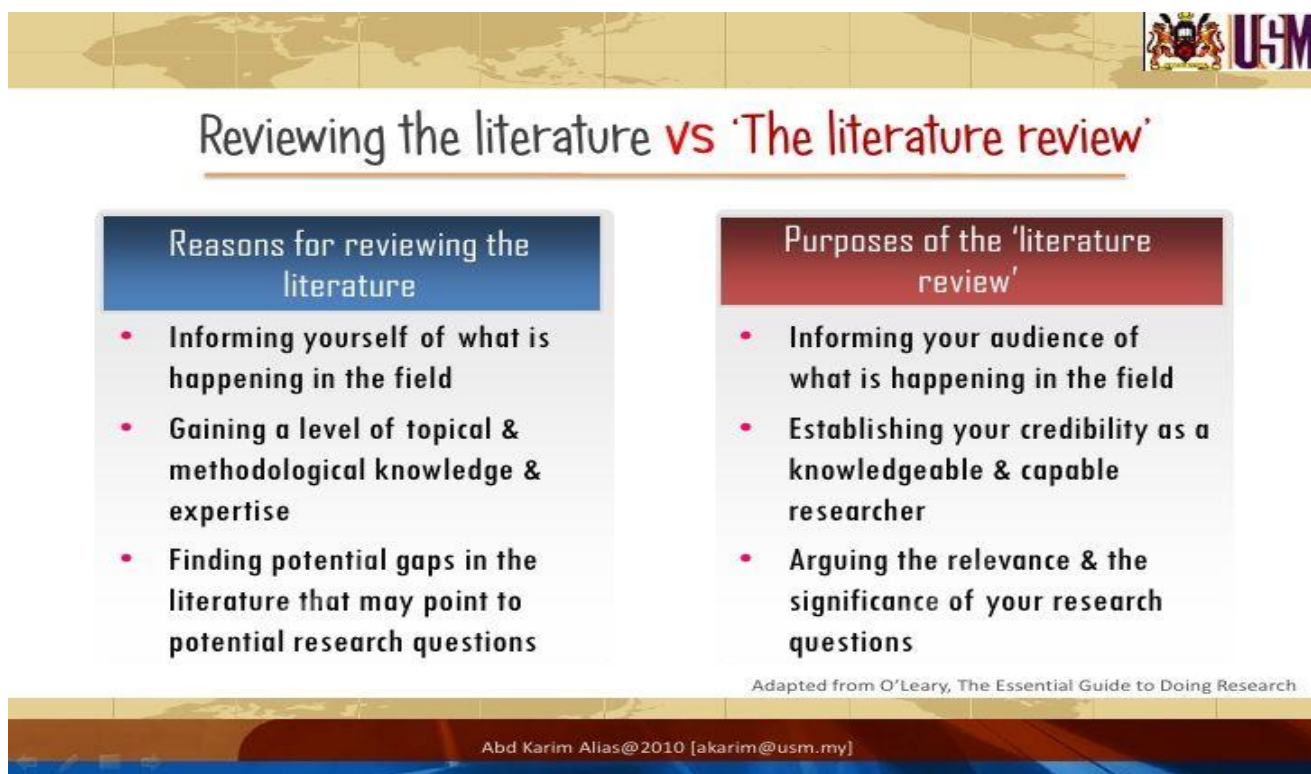
The term "Literature" (with a capital "L") is most commonly used to refer to the collection of written works that are regarded as

having aesthetic or intellectual quality and are frequently studied in academic contexts. It can also refer to the educational field or career focusing on studying these works.

You may, for instance, mention that "Jane studied English Literature in college" or that "Shakespeare is a renowned figure in world Literature."

On the other hand, "literature" (with a lowercase "l") is typically used to refer to any written work, regardless of how aesthetic or intellectually meritorious the work may be. It can refer to works of fiction and nonfiction, and it encompasses works such as novels, essays, articles, and other types of written forms of communication. You may, for instance, explain that "the course required students to read a variety of literature from different periods and genres."

The study of comparative literature is a subfield of English literature that examines books written in various languages and cultures, as well as distinct genres, historical periods, and academic fields. It is an approach to literary works and the situations in which they were written that is both multidisciplinary and cross-cultural. In addition, the comparative literature study is a method for investigating the many theorizations and practices associated with the arts and humanities.



Reviewing the literature vs 'The literature review'

Reasons for reviewing the literature	Purposes of the 'literature review'
• Informing yourself of what is happening in the field • Gaining a level of topical & methodological knowledge & expertise • Finding potential gaps in the literature that may point to potential research questions	• Informing your audience of what is happening in the field • Establishing your credibility as a knowledgeable & capable researcher • Arguing the relevance & the significance of your research questions

Adapted from O'Leary, *The Essential Guide to Doing Research*

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Literature is art, but with words.

A writer may employ a vast number of genres and literary techniques, which are commonly referred to as literary devices. In the same way, an artist may use various colours, paintbrushes, materials, canvases, and procedures, and a writer will use multiple literary devices. Metaphor, simile, personification, and imagery are some of the more renowned academic approaches; however, there are hundreds of other literary techniques to choose from. These many approaches to writing are comparable to the several kinds of paint, brushes, and other materials used in the creative process. The

category or manner of paper is referred to as "genre." Every type of writing has its own set of norms. Poetry, fiction, theatre, and creative nonfiction are examples of different literary genres.

To successfully build a world in the reader's imagination, literary works often make expert use of the conventions and methods associated with the genre in question. Less literary works are typically written for utilitarian and entertaining goals, and their authors put less concentrated effort towards artistically applying academic methods in their writing. Consequently, readers of these works have a more limited literary experience.

The word a symbol

The subject matter of written works is as open-ended as the need for people to share their thoughts and experiences. Since the earliest members of the human species discovered the ability to communicate verbally, many thousands or perhaps hundreds of thousands of years have passed. During that time, the nearly infinitely complex systems of interactions known as languages have evolved. A language is not just a collection of words in an unabridged dictionary; it is the individual and social property of living human beings who communicate with one another in that language. A language may be considered an infinitely expansive system of equivalents, mapping sounds to things and other sounds to each other. Words that represent first-hand experiences of an objective world are its most basic building blocks. At the same time, its most sophisticated components are the notions that are on a very high degree of abstraction.

The writer's involvement

Literature has a predisposition to grow more preoccupied as time passes, not only with the internal meanings of its tale but also with themes related to human nature and interpersonal relationships. This is because literature tends to become more introspective as time passes. Many novels are fake psychological biographies that tell the tale of the increasingly completed integration of the hero's personality or his disintegration, the battle between self-realization and the flow of events and the demands of other people. These books tell the story of how the hero deals with the conflict between self-realization, the flow of events, and other people's expectations. These works convey the tale of the struggle between coming to terms with one's own identity and with the demands of other people and the flow of events.

Forms of Literature:

The written word represents one mode of human expression. However, not everything communicated verbally, even if it is arranged coherently and written down, can be classified as literature. The majority of critics, although not all, agree that purely informative publications—whether technical, intellectual, or journalistic—should not be given the status of literature. However, some types of writing are widely acknowledged as part of literature's status as an art. If an individual effort within one of these genres has artistic quality, it is considered successful; otherwise, it is unsuccessful. Determining what constitutes creative greatness is a lot more challenging than just recognizing its existence. Even going for it is not required for the writer to be able to get their hands on it. On the other hand, a scientific explanation might have a very high literary value. Yet, pedestrian poetry could not have any literary worth at all.

The scope of literature:

The written word represents one mode of human expression. However, not everything communicated verbally, even if it is arranged coherently and written down, can be classified as literature. The majority of critics, although not all, agree that purely informative publications—whether technical, intellectual, or journalistic—should not be given the status of literature.

On the other hand, certain kinds of writing are generally accepted as a component of the artistic stature of literature. Individual efforts produced within these genres are deemed to be successful if they have what is known as artistic worth. However, they are

thought to fail if they do not have this aesthetic value. It is much more challenging to determine what constitutes creative greatness than to recognize its existence. Even going for it is not required for the writer to be able to get their hands on it. A scientific explanation, on the other hand, may have a high literary value. Yet, pedestrian poetry may have no worth at all.

Personal writings such as autobiographies, diaries, memoirs, and letters have found their way into the world's pantheon of the finest literature. This is true even if these works were not initially intended for publication. Some of these works of biographical writing were made so that future generations would read them. At the same time, other pieces were written with the intention that nobody outside the author would ever read them. Some of them have a highly polished literary style. In contrast, others, although written in a language created privately by the author, are acknowledged as works of literature owing to their cogency, insight, depth, and breadth. Some have a very polished literary style, while others have a highly polished one.

Broad and narrow conceptions of poetry

Poetry may be defined in various ways, depending on how it is used, as was brought to light by the rich literary history of East Asia. This issue has been widely discussed in Western culture ever since Edgar Allan Poe published his essay "Poetic Principle" (1850), in which he argued in favour of the short poem.

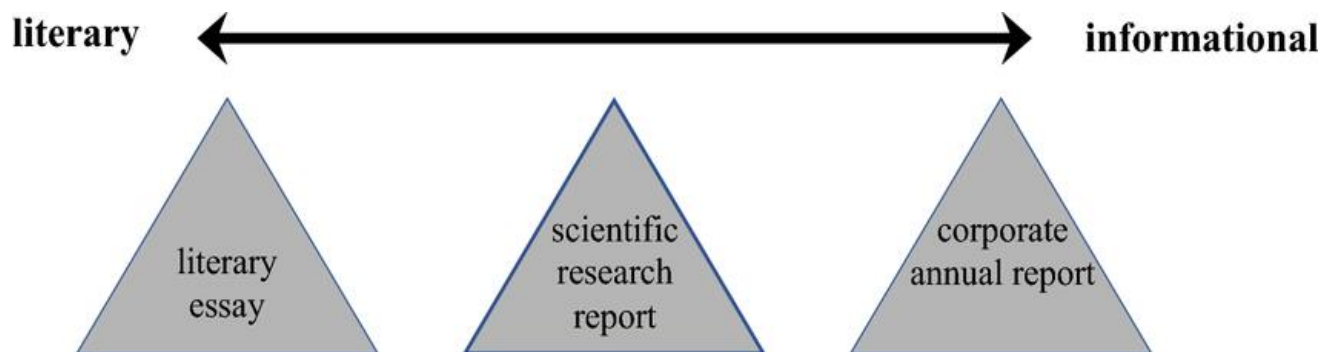
Nothing in Chinese literature can be compared to the lengthy epic poems or verse novels written in the 19th century in England by artists like Robert Browning or Alfred Lord Tennyson. These works were published in England. Doggerel is the phrase used to describe the verse used in Chinese theatre, with a few songs here and there being an exception to this rule. Treatises on astronomy, agriculture, or fishing, such as those created during the eras of the Greeks and Romans and the whole of the 18th century in the West, are almost unheard of in East Asia. In the West, similar works were written during the times of the Greeks and Romans.

Most Chinese poems are just a little bit longer than western sonnets, and many are merely quatrains. This is because many Chinese lyrics are composed of five lines. Most Chinese poetry is characterized by lyrical, introspective, and melancholy undertones, and the length of individual poems seldom exceeds one hundred lines. Japan is one of the countries that has implemented this trend of restricting duration to an even greater level.

In his book "For Kids," author and professor Thomas C. Foster, published in the New York Times bestseller list, provides preteens and teenagers with the tools they need to develop into attentive readers. In a humorous and conversational manner, he describes how authors bring a narrative to life via symbolism, metaphor, characters, location, and plot, as well as other necessary literary devices. Children need to be able to comprehend the several levels of meaning included in literary works from the very first book report they write in middle school through their very first college class.

Using examples ranging from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" to "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," from short tales and poetry to movie scripts, Foster makes acquiring this crucial skill enjoyable and thrilling. This comprehensive manual reveals all of the previously unknown aspects of reading, turning it into an activity that is both enjoyable and gratifying.

The Literary Spectrum

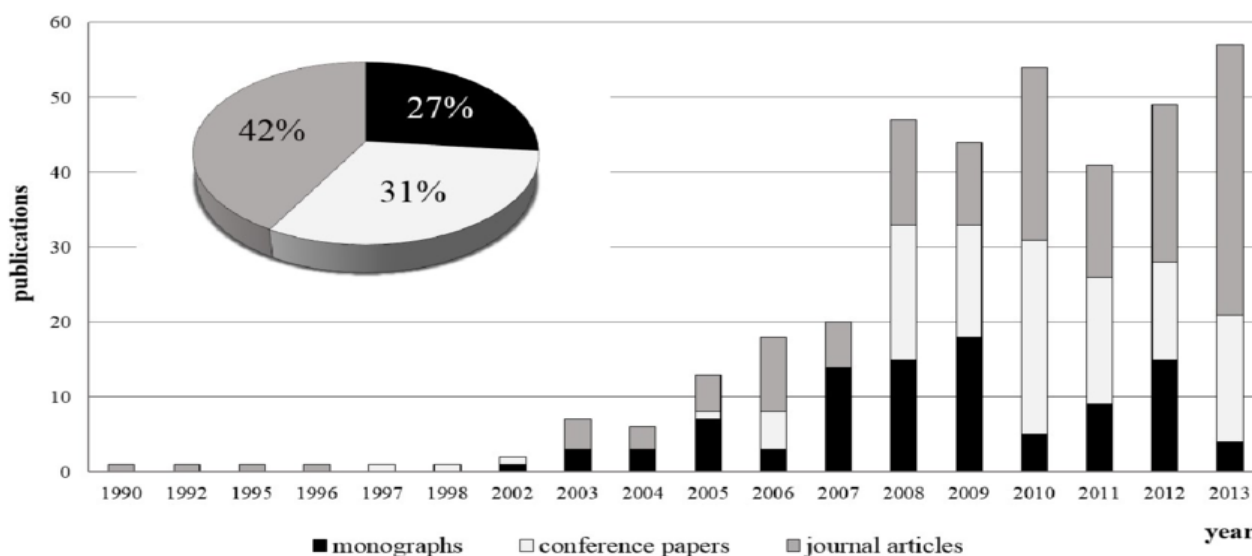


This spectrum may be an advantageous approach to literature since it provides a means to analyze writing as an art that is more open-ended than simply defining works as literary or non-literary. In other words, the spectrum allows for more room for interpretation. Why, in light of the chart that was just shown, do you consider that a calculus textbook and a popular magazine are examples of works that are "less literary"?

When it comes to popular magazines, we cannot consider them to be "lasting" literature since, after publication, they are often less relevant than they were before. This means we cannot believe them "enduring" literature. This indicates that the works in question do not satisfy the qualifications for this definition of literature. In

addition, the authors who contribute to such publications are more concerned with offering a transient source of entertainment for the reader than producing an impression rich in meaning.

They are not particularly adept in using literary devices such as metaphor, for instance, one of the more common literary tropes. On the other hand, Shakespeare's Hamlet fits the qualifications of the word "lasting," considering that it has existed for hundreds of years. It is filled with literary elements used for rhetorical effect. One might argue that it deals with important issues such as death, the afterlife, murder, retribution, and love rather than trifling matters such as a starlet's most recent cosmetic surgery.



Literary language

The language spoken or used in normal writing is very different from the language used in some forms of literature, most notably ancient Chinese, Old Norse, and Old Irish. The language used in these sorts of literature is much different from the language used in regular writing. This demonstrates that the experience of reading a piece of literature is one of a kind and exceptional in its own right. Literature written in the vernacular of intellectual men has only emerged as a significant force in the history of the Western canon in very recent times. This pattern first appeared in the latter part of the 19th century.

Ambiguity

Other writers have tried to employ language for its most subtle and detailed effects, and they have actively nourished the ambiguity that is inherently present in the various or nuanced interpretations of particular words. This ambiguity may be found in various literary works, including poetry, novels, and plays.

Between the two world wars, "ambiguity" became pretty popular in English and American poetry, and the ferreting out of ambiguities—from even the most straightforward poem—became a favourite critical activity in both countries. Between the two world wars, "ambiguity" became trendy in English and American poetry.

In French poetry written during the interwar, ambiguity was seen as relatively modern. Based on the literary essays that T. S. Eliot penned, most people think he was the founder of the movement. However, his two students, I.A. Richards in *Principles of Literary Criticism* (1924) and William Empson in *Seven Types of Ambiguity* (1930), carried his method to extreme extremities. The basis of his critical ideas is predominantly moral.

It is generally agreed upon that *The Meaning of Meaning* (1923), which C.K. Ogden and I.A. Richards wrote, was the seminal work that laid the groundwork for the movement. Throughout the whole of its historical time, this book was widely regarded as being of very significant importance. However, barely a decade after they were initially articulated, these ideas were already primarily considered outdated. Despite this, ambiguity played a crucial role as a formative aspect for the author and a notable literary study topic.

Translation

It is implausible that William Blake and Thomas Campion realized the complexities and many meanings that later critics would unearth in the lyrics while penning their compositions' fundamental words. Later on, the reviewers came upon such nuances and perspectives. Acquiring linguistic proficiency is an arduous task. Words do have subtleties; they evoke complex mental associations that aren't captured by the dictionary definitions of those terms. Prominent stylists, and poets in particular, operate with a subconscious or at least a semi-conscious knowledge of language's infinite possibilities. This is particularly true for excellent poetry. This is especially true for perfect poetry.

This is one of the reasons (apart from the highly diverse sound patterns created in multiple language versions of the work) why the subject of most poetry and excellent prose is so complex to translate. The proper designs created in the work's many language translations provide another interpretation.

A translator must possess several skills, including the capacity to place themselves in the author's head, immerse themselves in an entirely distinct world of associations between sounds and meanings, and establish equivalency between successive exceedingly complex systems. This process has to be done very carefully to be effective since there are no two languages that are identical in any manner save the most fundamental ones. Some authors are renowned for using terms that are hard to understand when written in a different language.

An outstanding illustration of this is the Bible's King James Version, originally released in 1611. Generally speaking, however, most translations' relative equivalency to their original languages seems to have a somewhat limited lifespan. The most remarkable translations could be timeless works of literature in and of themselves, masterpieces in their own right.

For the people it was meant, the original work will always have enduring significance; however, as language and literary taste standards change with each passing generation, translations become more outdated. This is so because the original work was created with the intended audience in mind. Nothing else quite captures the variety of language utilized in literary works and the language used in literary works.

A similar process occurs when a reader encounters a literary work in their language; every generation inherits a "new version" of the classics written in their language. This also applies to literary works.

However, the intricacies and nuances of meaning that arise from the mere use of language are not as important as the principles of excellent writing. Works in this category include those written in various languages with grammatically distinct grammatical structures, noted in a historical and culturally remote distance from modern man, and successfully translated into contemporary English to the point of profound emotion.

Structure

There is more to the skill of writing than simply following the principles of prosody. To pique the reader's interest, the structure of the work has to be modified. Before anything else, the literary context needs to be established. To capture and maintain the reader's attention, the work must directly relate to the reader and position them inside the context of the work by providing sufficient information about who, what, when, or why. Alternatively, the reader may be purposefully misled to achieve the same result.

Style

Conversely, style is how the author's thoughts are expressed via words and cannot be claimed to exist on paper at all. There can be no abstract literature unless one considers a collection of meaningless syllables to be literature, as words represent ideas. Language was necessary even for the most avant-garde writers associated with nonobjective or cubist painters because language is meaning, no matter how illegible the message may be. Two of the most well-known proponents of "art for art's sake" in the 19th century, Oscar Wilde and Walter Pater, were tireless propagandists for their ideas, which come through in their most flowery language. Flawless form and content alignment are necessary for great style since this ensures that the writer's intention is fully reflected in the literary representation. Conversely, "poor style" shows that a writer cannot balance the two, or, to put it another way, that the writer cannot articulate himself. This explains the meaning behind the adage "style expresses the man."

literature classification systems

Literature may be classed in various ways; factors that can be used to classify a work include language, country of origin, historical period, genre, subject matter, or any combination.

The library classification system is a notational system that depicts the order in which themes are presented and enables things to be kept according to the order in which they are shown in the classification. The works belonging to the same category are shelved together following the library's categorization system, often organized as a tree.

This article on the organization of fictional knowledge could interest you if you are interested in categorizing and indexing fictitious works of literature. In addition to detailing many experimental methodologies and developing initiatives to study fictional material, it offers a comprehensive and analytical survey of the relevant literature.

Most Common Genres:

<u>Fiction</u>	<u>Nonfiction</u>
Fables, Folktales, Fairytales	Biography
Fantasy, Mystery	Autobiography
Myth, Legend	Reference
Historical Fiction	Essay, Newspaper Article
Realistic Fiction	Speeches, Diaries, Letters
Science Fiction	Informational

Other Types of Writing: Drama, Poetry

Reader-Response Theory vs. Critical Theory

Whatever you think; like or dislike; personal opinions, connections, reactions





PURPOSEFUL reading and DECODING according to a specific lens, viewpoint, approach; identifying particular elements and meanings that emerge BASED ON that lens, view, perspective

Literary theory

Analyzing and interpreting works of literature is the focus of the academic field known as literary theory. It investigates the fundamental questions of literature and how it relates to other aspects of culture and society. It wasn't until the 20th century that literary theory emerged as a distinct field of study. However, its historical origins may be traced back to ancient Greece.

The study of literary theory is a methodical investigation of the characteristics of literature and the approaches to literary analysis. Since the nineteenth century, academic studies have included literary theory and concerns of intellectual history, moral philosophy, social philosophy, and transdisciplinary topics related to how individuals understand meaning.

An outgrowth of poststructuralism may be seen in the more recent approaches to literary studies in the field of the humanities in modern academic institutions. Consequently, "theory" has become an umbrella term for various educational reading methods. Various subfields inform some of these theoretical approaches of semiotics, cultural studies, philosophy of language, and continental philosophy.

It is common practice to identify a literary movement with a specific time and a collection of authors who were active during that time.

Literary theories are intellectual frameworks that aim to answer various fundamental interpretative concerns regarding literature. Academic researchers get an understanding of the topic they study through literary theories.

After conducting in-depth research on a piece of literature, a literary critic might use that text as a springboard to develop their original literary theory.

What are the types of literary theories?

Views from popular literature These ideas have been widely accepted in recent decades, even though some chapters in the well-known texts on literary theory and criticism date back to Plato's and even Socrates' time. The underlying idea of some of the most renowned academic views is presented here, along with the ideas themselves:

Structuralism: Structuralism is a literary theory that examines the notion that each piece of written work adheres to a particular structure. It is somewhat valid, yet the idea has often been

expanded incorrectly. This hypothesis is almost exclusively confined to academic study and intellectual debates.

Deconstruction: Once you get Derrida's basic ideas about one random day in class, this theory will become the most fascinating. Once you understand them, however, this idea will be the most exciting. It tells you to take things to their most basic levels, look for the subconscious, gaps in the system, and white spaces, and then use your imagination to fill in the blanks.

Once again, the theory may not be constructive for the routine text analysis process. But it's pretty popular among thinkers and those who argue in university corridors.

Feminist & Gay-Lesbian-Queer Theory: Do you require any more explanation? The concept's name is self-explanatory, and you should already be familiar with its core principles. Although the theory fundamentally orients itself on feminist origins, it subsequently transformed to incorporate lesbian, gay, and queer principles.

When it comes to understanding literary texts from a woman-centred perspective, this is a highly prevalent school of thought. Numerous study activities are carried out each year by academics, with the scholars' theories serving as the focal point of their suggestions.

Ecocriticism: This theory began to get attention in the 1970s and 1980s. As concerns about global warming and other environmental problems gain traction globally in the twenty-first century, ecocriticism is again in demand due to the heightened awareness of these issues. Many universities employ research specialists urged to find relevant study subjects with ecocriticism at their core. To learn more about ecocriticism, check out this article: [Environmental Criticism](#).

Modernism & Postmodernism: It should come as no surprise that literary works that illustrate the consequences of the modernism and postmodernism movements in Europe (and other parts of the world) are the most prevalent applications of this principle. It describes the changes in culture that occurred in the early 20th century and continued for the next two to three decades, along with the impact those changes had on the world after the wars.

First, postmodernism might be seen as a tardy reconsideration of a way of life that started in the 1970s and continued for over 20

years. This way of living began in the 1970s. Now that the twenty-first century is well underway, modernism and postmodernism are out of date, even if the publishers of the books on the literary theory they represent are still finishing touches on their pages.

Narratology: The study of many factors connected to the story in writing is the primary focus of this theory, even though the term "narrative theory" connotes numerous aesthetic aspects of a literary work due to its name. For instance, go back to the last time you read a book in the form of a novel. What specific details can you recall? It would help to remember the primary characters, episodes, or a few narrative twists. However, at this point, you should concentrate on who told you the book's tale. That was the individual who was acting as your narrator! And regardless of whether or not the stories that were told were intriguing, the art was storytelling!

New Historicism & Marxist Criticism: Even if these two hypotheses can be confirmed in their own right, it is best to

analyze them together. The study of literary text in conjunction with non-literary material or reference text is the focus of New Historicism.

This is done to acquire a better understanding of the context that may have had a role in the creation of the text or certain events described in a literary work. In other words, New Historicism's primary focus is on analyzing literary works within the confines of a specific historical setting.

Colonial & Post-colonial Criticism: The focus of this critical school is on the analysis of literary texts, the majority of which were composed during the period of European colonial explorations, to shed light on the confusion, chaos, and deprivation resulting from the illegitimate, lustful, and lustful invasions of the nations and societies—physically, culturally, and consciously. This school of criticism is narrowly focused on the analysis of literary texts, as the name appropriately suggests.

WHAT IS LITERARY THEORY?

- The body of ideas and methods used in the reading and studying of literature
- Various theories, focal points, "lenses", and approaches to explain and interpret texts
- Application of diverse knowledge and perspectives to yield multiple interpretations of literature



Examples of Literary Theory

- Each work has its own literary theory(ies) for which it can be further understood.
- The most commonly recognized are:
 - **Marxism:** discusses the socioeconomic and class differences.
 - **Feminism:** reinforcing or undermining the role of women amongst patriarchal society.
 - **Post-Colonialism:** looks at works produced by colonial powers and their influence of religion and culture.
 - **Post-Modernism:** there are many truths; structures become unstable or decentered.
 - **Gender and Queer Studies:** discusses the role of sexuality, power and marginalized populations.

Literature in Current Scenario:

This discussion about ancient books dating back thousands of years may appear out of touch. Many believe that "old and boring" and literature are interchangeable terms. When students first discover that comic books and video games have the potential to be regarded as literature as well, they frequently express astonishment.

The idea that graphic novels, such as Art Spiegelman's 1991 *Maus* and Alison Bechdel's 2006 *Fun Home*, qualify as literature is supported by several arguments.

Cutting-edge literary scholars argue that video games such as *Kentucky Route Zero* by Cardboard Computer (2015) must be considered literary works. Literary works like Jennifer Egan's *"Black Box"* (2012) are also delivered as tweets. Some individuals have even referred to memes as literary masterpieces.

Memes are images or videos that typically convey cultural values or ideas via allusion, which is an implied reference to another work without stating the source of the work. Videos or static pictures may be used as memes. Memes can spread quickly via social media networks. How come? They are relevant because the best ones connect to a human experience that most people can relate to.

The Problem with the Canon

In an ideal world, the sole criteria for praising literary accomplishments would be their impact on artistic expression. Well-written works would live on, whereas poorly written ones would eventually be forgotten by the general audience. However, not every situation will support this.

A writer's fame, wealth, connections, or acceptance by the prevailing culture at the time may contribute to a work's persistence or public recognition beyond the author's skill or aesthetic judgment. For instance, being one of the "Big Six" important Romantic-era poets, William Wordsworth has been taught in school curriculums since he was named Poet Laureate of England.

He is acknowledged as a crucial part of the canon of Romanticism literature. Finding a literary collection devoid of any of William Wordsworth's compositions would be difficult.

Data Collection and Data Analysis:

In literary studies, data analysis is crucial to any inquiry into, criticism of, or interpretation of literary works. The utilization of computerized data processing, verbal and classified indexing, and thesaurus control are all necessary for data analysis.

The aspect analysis theory is one of the approaches used in the data analysis process for literary studies. In this context, "literary studies" refers to all fields of inquiry, critique, or interpretation centred on literary works.

According to one school of thinking, electronic data processing, thesaurus management, and verbal and category indexing should all be included in data analysis related to literary studies.

The paper will briefly discuss the present limitations of data analysis in this field, provide an overview of facet analysis theory as it applies to literary studies, and demonstrate how academic studies (individual, comparative, and generic philologists) attest to several significant developments in the field in the last several years:

(a) The quantity of publications has increased noticeably.

(b) The publishing industry's diversification has led to a rise in the number of journals with a literary studies focus. This includes increasing specialized journals, newsletters, bibliographies, and state-of-the-art assessments concentrating only on specific authors or topics.

(c) Expertise in well-established research fields, as shown by the "research opportunities" sections in several scholarly publications.

d) The emergence of novel academic subjects, such as women's literature; e) The almost continuous transformation of critical paradigms, including deconstruction, socio-cultural approaches, new criticism, and reception theory.

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