

This e-content is for

B.A. (English): Semester-1st (First Year)

Unit – 1 An Introduction to Indian Writing in English

- Contribution of **Shri Aurobindo, Rabindra Nath Tagore, R.K. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand and Sarojini Naidu** towards the growth of Indian Writing in English-

Contribution of Shri Aurobindo (1872-1950)

Shri Aurobindo, an influential Indian philosopher, poet, and nationalist leader, made notable contributions to Indian writing in English during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. While he is primarily known for his philosophical and political work, his literary contributions also played a significant role in shaping the landscape of Indian literature in English. Here are some aspects of Sri Aurobindo's contribution to the growth of Indian writing in English:

Poetry: Shri Aurobindo was a prolific poet, and his poetry often reflected a blend of Eastern and Western influences. His collection of poems, including works such as "Collected Poems" and "Savitri," explored spiritual and mystical themes. The richness of his language and the depth of his philosophical insights added a unique dimension to Indian English poetry.

Prose and Essays- Shri Aurobindo was an articulate prose writer and essayist. His essays covered a wide range of topics, including philosophy, spirituality, and social issues. His writings demonstrated a mastery of English language and a profound understanding of both Western and Indian thought.

Integration of Eastern and Western Thought- In his literary works, Shri Aurobindo successfully integrated Eastern spiritual concepts with Western literary forms. This synthesis contributed to the development of a distinct Indian voice in English literature, bridging the gap between traditional Indian wisdom and modern Western literary expressions.

Contribution of Rabindra Nath Tagore (1861-1941)

Rabindranath Tagore was a multi-talented Indian poet, philosopher, musician, and polymath who made significant contributions to various fields. While Rabindranath Tagore is primarily associated with Bengali literature and is celebrated for his contributions to the Bengali literary tradition, he also made notable contributions to English literature. His works in English include poetry, essays, and plays. Here are some aspects of Rabindranath Tagore's contributions to English literature:

1. Poetry- Tagore's collection of poems titled "Gitanjali" was originally written in Bengali and later translated into English by the poet himself. The English version, also titled "Gitanjali," was published in 1910. This collection, which means "Song Offerings," received widespread acclaim

and played a crucial role in earning Tagore the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913. The poems in "Gitanjali" reflect Tagore's deep spiritual and philosophical insights.

2. Essays- Tagore wrote a series of essays in English that covered a range of topics, including literature, philosophy, and social issues. Some of his notable essays include "Nationalism in India," where he critically examines the concept of nationalism, and "The Religion of Man," which delves into his thoughts on spirituality and humanity.

3. Plays- Tagore wrote several plays in Bengali, and some of them were later translated into English. One of his well-known plays is "The Post Office" (Dakghar), which was written in Bengali in 1912 and later translated into English. The play explores themes of imagination, freedom, and the human spirit.

4. Short Stories- Tagore wrote short stories in both Bengali and English. His English short stories, such as those found in the collection "Muktadhara" (The Wreath of Freedom), showcase his narrative skills and delve into human relationships and societal issues.

Contribution of R.K. Narayan (1906-2001)

R.K. Narayan) was a renowned Indian writer who made significant contributions to English literature, particularly through his novels and short stories. His works primarily focus on the fictional town of Malgudi, creating a rich tapestry of characters and stories that capture the essence of Indian life. Here are some key aspects of R.K. Narayan's contributions to English literature-

1. Malgudi Series- Narayan's most significant contribution lies in the creation of the fictional town of Malgudi, which serves as the backdrop for many of his novels and short stories. The Malgudi series includes works like "Swami and Friends," "The Bachelor of Arts," "The Guide," and "The Man-Eater of Malgudi." Through Malgudi, Narayan provided a microcosmic view of Indian society, portraying the complexities and nuances of everyday life with a blend of humor and insight.

2. Characterization- Narayan was known for his skillful characterization. His characters were often ordinary people facing everyday challenges, making them relatable to a wide audience. The protagonists, such as Swami in "Swami and Friends" and Raju in "The Guide," are memorable and emblematic of the human experience.

3. Humor and Satire- Narayan's writing is characterized by a gentle humor and satire. He had a keen observational eye and used humor to highlight the quirks and idiosyncrasies of his characters and, by extension, Indian society. This approach endeared him to readers and contributed to the accessibility of his works.

4. Cultural Representation- Narayan's novels provide a window into Indian culture, traditions, and values. While his stories are set in a specific cultural context, the themes he explored—

friendship, love, family, and societal expectations—are universal, making his works appealing to readers from diverse backgrounds.

Contribution of Mulk Raj Anand (1906-2001)

Mulk Raj Anand made significant contributions to English literature, particularly in the context of Indian English literature. Here are some key aspects of his contribution:

- 1. Pioneer of Indian English Fiction-** Anand is widely recognized as one of the pioneers of Indian English fiction. He, along with other contemporaries like R.K. Narayan and Raja Rao, played a crucial role in establishing a distinct voice and identity for Indian literature written in English.
- 2. Social Realism and Social Critique-** Anand's works are known for their social realism, providing a vivid portrayal of the social issues and challenges faced by the people in India. His novels and short stories often critiqued the societal norms, economic disparities, and injustices prevalent in Indian society during the pre-independence and post-independence eras.
- 3. Humanism and Universal Themes-** Anand's writing is infused with humanism, emphasizing the common humanity that transcends cultural and social barriers. While rooted in the Indian context, his themes often carry universal significance, making his works accessible and relatable to a global audience.

Contribution of Sarojini Naidu (1879–1949)

Sarojini Naidu was a prominent Indian poet, political activist, and one of the key figures in the Indian independence movement. Her contribution to English literature lies in her poetic prowess and her role as a powerful voice for Indian independence. Sarojini Naidu made history by becoming the first Indian woman to preside over the Indian National Congress in 1925. Here are some aspects of Sarojini Naidu's contribution to English literature-

1. Poetic Excellence- Sarojini Naidu was a highly accomplished poet, and her works earned her the title of "Nightingale of India." Her poetry was marked by lyrical beauty, vivid imagery, and a deep understanding of the human experience. She wrote in both English and her native language, Telugu.

2. Representation of Indian and Feminist Themes- Her poetry often celebrated the richness of Indian culture, mythology, and history. Through her verses, she sought to convey the spirit and ethos of India, contributing to the representation of Indian themes in English literature. Naidu's poetry occasionally touched upon feminist themes, addressing the role of women in society and advocating for their rights. Her advocacy for women's empowerment was reflected not only in her poetry but also in her active involvement in social and political spheres.

Elements of Short Stories-

Short stories typically consist of several key elements that contribute to their structure and narrative. While individual stories may vary, here are some common elements found in many short stories:

- 1. Plot-** The sequence of events that make up the story. It includes the exposition (introduction of characters and setting), rising action (development of the central conflict), climax (turning point or moment of highest tension), falling action (events following the climax), and resolution (conclusion of the story).
- 2. Characters-** The individuals or entities involved in the story. They can be protagonists (main characters), antagonists (opposing characters), or supporting characters. Well-developed characters have distinct traits, motivations, and arcs.
- 3. Setting-** The time and place in which the story unfolds. The setting helps establish the mood, atmosphere, and context for the narrative.
- 4. Narrative Technique-** Narrative techniques in English literature refer to the various methods and tools employed by authors to convey their stories and engage readers. These techniques encompass a range of literary devices and narrative strategies that enhance the overall structure, characterization, and thematic depth of a work.

Unit – 2 Types of Prose and Prose Styles

Prose refers to written or spoken language that follows regular grammatical structure and does not have a rhythmic or metrical pattern as found in poetry. There are various types of prose, and within each type, different styles may emerge based on the author's voice, tone, and purpose. Here are some common types of prose and prose styles:

Types of Prose:

- 1. Novel-** A long work of fiction that typically explores complex characters, multiple plotlines, and various themes.
- 2. Short Story-** A brief work of fiction that focuses on a single plot, theme, or character. Short stories are shorter than novels but longer than most brief forms of prose.

Prose Styles

- 1. Biography-** An account of a person's life, written by someone else.
- 2. Autobiography-** An account of a person's life, written by that person.
- 3. Memoir-** A personal account or narrative that focuses on specific experiences, memories, or events in the author's life.
- 4. Travel Writing (travelogue)-** Prose that describes a writer's experiences and observations during their travels.
- 5. Essay-** A short piece of non-fiction writing that presents an argument, analysis, or reflection on a particular topic. Types of Essays- Periodical, Personal and Formal

Unit 3 – Prose Devices

1. **Theme-** The underlying message, idea, or moral of the story. Themes can be explicit or implicit and often explore universal human experiences or emotions.
2. **Point of View-** The perspective from which the story is told. Common points of view include first person (narrator is a character in the story), third person limited (narrator knows the thoughts and feelings of one character), and third person omniscient (narrator knows the thoughts and feelings of multiple characters).
3. **Sentence Pattern-**
 - Subject–Verb.
 - Subject–Verb–Object.
 - Subject–Verb–Adjective.
 - Subject–Verb–Adverb.
 - Subject–Verb–Noun.
4. **Tone-** The author's attitude toward the subject matter or the audience. The tone can be serious, humorous, suspenseful, or any other emotion conveyed through the writing.
5. **Analogy-** Comparing two objects or ideas is common practice in the English language, as useful in writing and literature as in everyday figures of speech.
6. **Anecdotes-** Anecdotes are short stories used in every day conversation in order to inspire, amuse, caution and more.
7. **Antithesis-** It is usually the opposite of a statement, concept, or idea. In literary analysis, an antithesis is a pair of statements or images in which the one reverses the other.
8. **Aphorism-** It is a short statement of a general truth, insight, or good advice. It's roughly similar to a "saying."
9. **Diction-** Diction is the choice of words writers use to communicate their ideas. They base their choice of diction on the content, type or piece of writing, and audience.
10. **Inversion-** Inversion is defined as a literary device in which the writer purposefully words phrases or sentences in a non-traditional order.
11. **Humor and Pathos-** Humour and pathos have been essential elements of literature and the arts – and of life – from ancient times to the twenty-first century and they pose many fascinating questions for literary and cultural criticism, theory and practice and for a range of related fields of intellectual inquiry.

Unit-4 Short Stories-

- **The Last Leaf by O' Henry-** "The Last Leaf" concerns Johnsy, a poor young woman who is seriously ill with pneumonia. She believes that when the ivy vine on the wall outside her window loses all its leaves, she will also die. Her neighbour Behrman, an artist, tricks her by painting a leaf on the wall.
- **The Lament by Antone Chekhov-** A tragic father's sorrow and anguish over the lost of his only child are the subjects of the story "The Lament." He carries this sorrow within

him. He really wants to share his sorrow with someone to ease his burden, but no one is willing to hear his heartbreaking tale.

- **The Diamond Necklace by Guy de Maupassant-** The story 'The Necklace' was written seven hundred years ago by Guy De Maupassant in France. Matilda Loisel lived in a small flat with her husband who worked as a clerk for the Minister of Education. Matilda was a very pretty young lady. Neither did they live a luxurious life nor were they poor. Matilda was very unhappy because she always thought that she was born for all luxuries in the world but she had to live a petty and simple life.

Unit-5 Short Stories-

- **The Lost Child by M.R. Anand-** The *Lost Child* is a story about a little child who becomes a victim of an unfortunate event. He loses contact with his loved ones in a village fair. The story depicts the struggle of getting lost and separated from the comfort and security of one's loved ones.
- **Under the Banyan Tree by R.K.Narayan-** The concluding story, *Under the Banyan Tree*, is about a village story-teller who concludes his career by taking a vow of silence for the rest of his life, realizing that a story-teller must have the sense to know when to stop and not wait for others to tell him.
- **The Tunnel by Ruskin Bond-**'*The Tunnel*' is based on Ranji's fascination for trains. He travels away from his home to explore trains as they pass through the countryside and head into and out of tunnels. Over time, he gets friendly with another young lad called Kishan who teaches him how to stay safe in the jungle and respect the environment. The book touches upon various aspects of a child's life—curiosity, friendship, innocence and respect.

Unit-6 Prose-

- **Of Studies by Francis Bacon-** **Of Studies** is the masterpiece essay nicely written by **Francis Bacon**. This essay is one of the most attractive essays, which was written on the behalf of Study. In the essay *Of Studies*, the writer Francis Bacon describes the importance of studies in human life.
- **Dream Children by Charles Lamb-** *Dream Children* is a personal essay. Lamb presents the characters and incidents from his own life—the sketches of his grandmother Mrs. Field, his brother—John Lamb, his sister—Mary Lamb, his tragic love-affairs with Ann Simmons. But Lamb always plays with facts and fictions and transforms the real into the literary.
- **Sir Roger at the Church by Joseph Addison-** The essay, *Sir Roger at Church* aims at a reform in the attendance at church. He desires peaceful relations between the squire and the parson in a village to ensure good attendance at church and improvement of the faith of people. In this essay, there is support of Steele's appraisal of the character of Sir Roger as an eccentric man. The oddities of his character come out during the church service. There is much humor in his behavior at church and delicate irony too.

Unit-7 Prose-

- **Professions for Women by Virginia Woolf-** Virginia Woolf, in her work, Professions for Women, examine the role of women in rising against all odds, in order to acquire a voice of their own in a male-chauvinistic society. Instigated by her speech to address the National Society for Women's Service in 1931, Woolf seeks to compel women to rise up from the sacrificial and selfless women of the nineteenth century, so that they can reach their potential. In her own words, Woolf calls this battle by "killing" the Angel in the House, who insists that she must remain submissive and never let anyone know that she had a mind of her own. For this reason, a woman must do what it takes to excel, without listening to the harsh judgments that society may have towards her.
- **Patriotism beyond Politics and Religion by A.P.J. Kalam-** A.P.J. Abdul Kalam calls to his people to rise to greatness to rise to their highest capabilities. He tells us about the factors which go to make a nation strong. "Three factors are invariably found in a strong nation; a collective pride in its achievements. unity and the ability for combined action." The author lays emphasis to have a common memory of great heroes and exploits, of great adventures and triumphs in the past. It is because of this sense of pride in their great heroes that the English raised to great heights.
- **The Conquest of the world by Indian Thought by Swami Vivekanand-** Author's message was simple yet powerful. Vivekananda conveyed his ideas directly to the people, especially to the youth. His message broke through the shackles of caste and creed and spoke of a language of universal brotherhood.

Unit-8 Computer and Writing skills in English (Practice in Computer Lab)

- Preparing Resume
- Letter Writing
- Online Writing and PPT Creation
- Content writing