

CHAPTER

47

Literary Terms and Figures

সাহিত্যের বিভিন্ন Parts এবং Types ভালোভাবে বুঝার জন্য গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয় হচ্ছে Literary terms। আর সাহিত্যের ভাষাগত বিন্যাস ও অন্তর্গত অর্থোদ্ধারের জন্য আবশ্যিক বিষয় হচ্ছে Figures of speech। এ দুটি বিষয়ের অধ্যয়ন এখন শুধু সাহিত্যের Student-দের মধ্যে সীমাবদ্ধ নয়, বিভিন্ন Competitive exam-এ এদের উপর প্রশ্ন হওয়ায় এগুলো এখন সকলের জন্য অপরিহার্য।

47.1 কোন সাহিত্যকর্ম কী ধরনের অর্থাৎ এটা কি Poem, Novel নাকি Drama; আবার, Poem হলে কী ধরনের Poem অর্থাৎ এটা কি Sonnet, Lyric, Elegy নাকি Blank verse—এভাবে বিভিন্ন ধরনের Literary work-এর পরিচয়, তাদের Types, বিভিন্ন parts ইত্যাদি নিয়ে আলোচনার বিষয়বস্তু হচ্ছে Literary terms। যেমন—

► Melodrama is a kind of play of —

- (ক) violent and sensational themes ✓
 (খ) historical themes
 (গ) philosophical themes (ঘ) pathetic themes

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► What is catastrophe ?

- (ক) The comical end of dramatic events
 (খ) The tragic end of dramatic events ✓
 (গ) The comic tragic end of the play
 (ঘ) None of the above

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► Ballad is —

- (ক) a kind of short narrative poem ✓
 (খ) a kind of short condoling poem
 (গ) a kind of short love poem (ঘ) a rhymic verse

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47.1.1 Literary Term Index : Literature-এর Genre বা প্রকারভেদ অনুসারে Literary term-গুলো দেয়া হলো :

Poetry/Verse

Poetry or verse is a metrical (ছন্দময়) composition that conveys a certain meaning.

Terms	Definitions
Ballad	A narrative poem that tells a grave story through dialogue and action. Coleridge's <i>The Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i> is a famous ballad.
Blank verse	Poetry without rhyme at the end.

Terms	Definitions
Couplet	Two lines of verse rhyming together.
Dramatic monologue	It is a kind of lyric poem in which a single speaker expresses his/her thoughts and feelings to a silent listener/listeners.
Elegy	Elegy is a lyric poem mourning for the death of an individual or lamenting over a tragic event. Some famous English elegies are Milton's <i>Lycidas</i> , Shalley's <i>Adonais</i> , Tennyson's <i>In Memoriam</i> , Gray's <i>Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard</i> etc.
Epic	A long narrative poem with grand style and heroic theme. It involves invocation to the muses, a hero with superhuman quality, supernatural elements, under world journey, lofty language etc. Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Spenser's <i>The Faerie Queene</i> are famous epics.
Epic simile/Homeric simile	It is an open comparison between two dissimilar objects of which one is fairly elaborated. Generally, epic/homeric simile is used in epic.
Heroic couplet	It is a pair of iambic pentameter (five unstressed and stressed syllables) verse lines rhyming together.
Hymn	A lyric poem or song in praise of God or hero.
Invocation	A formal prayer to the Muses for inspiration, help and guidance at the beginning of an epic.
Lyric	It is a short poem expressing personal or subjective thoughts and feelings.
Machinery	The supernatural agents used in an epic or mock-epic.
Mock-epic	Mock-epic is a narrative poem which aims at mockery and laughter by using the features of an epic, for example, Alexander Pope's <i>The Rape of the Lock</i> .
Ode	A lyric poem that begins with grief or agony and ends with consolation.
Quatrain	It is a stanza (division of poem) form consisting of four lines. A short poem of four lines is also called quatrain.
Sonnet	A lyric poem of fourteen lines. The first eight lines are called 'octave' and the last six lines are called 'sestet'.

Drama

A literary form intended to be performed on stage using physical movements and dialogues.

Terms	Definitions
Act	A major division of the action of a play.
Aside/soliloquy	Aside is a dramatic technique of speaking alone with the presence of other characters on the stage. <i>Soliloquy</i> is the same thing like aside but none is allowed on the stage in soliloquy. They are the inner expressions of character's own thoughts and feelings.
Black comedy/dark comedy	A kind of comic work that involves farce (अव्ययन) and morbid humour. Shakespeare's <i>Merchant of Venice</i> , <i>Measure for Measure</i> , <i>The Winter's Tale</i> are black comedy.
Catastrophy	It is the final scene of a tragedy in which the action ends with the death of the hero. In one word, it is a tragic end of a play.

Terms	Definitions
Catharsis	The purgation or purification of pity and fear in a tragedy.
Chorus	Chorus is a group of performers in a play who comment on the action and provide mood and atmosphere for it.
Climax	The peak of importance in a play at which the rise of action ends and the fall of action begins.
Comedy	A kind of drama which begins with misfortune or problem but ends in happiness.
Comedy of humours	It is a kind of comedy in which characters behave according to their respective humours, that is, the four fluids (blood, phlegm, black bile (melancholy) and yellow bile (choler)) of human body. Ben Jonson's <i>Every Man in His Humour</i> is an example.
Comedy of ideas	It is a form of comedy that presents certain ideas or theories through debate, for example, Shaw's <i>Man and Superman</i> .
Comedy of manners	It portrays the ridiculous behaviour pattern of the individuals of an aristocratic society. Congreve's <i>The Way of the World</i> is a comedy of manners.
Comic relief	A comic scene in between serious scenes of a tragedy to relieve the tension and heighten the tragic effect by contrast.
Denouement	The final scene of a drama or fiction in which all the problems are solved.
Epilogue	A speech of poem at the end of a play in which the moral is pointed out.
Exposition	The beginning of a play
Hamartia/tragic flaw/hubris (pride)	It is an error or a flaw of a tragic hero.
Heroic tragedy	It is a kind of tragedy written in grand and lofty style to show the disastrous end of a conflict between love and duty, for example, Dryden's <i>All for Love</i> .
Melodrama	A kind of drama that provides sensational entertainment and presents horror and bloodshed, thrills and violence on the stage. Jerrold's <i>Balck-Ey'd Susan</i> , Boucicault's <i>Ten Nights in a Bar Room</i> are two melodramas.
Plot	A logical arrangement of events.
Revenge tragedy/tragedy of blood	It is a kind of tragedy that involves a quest for vengeance, ghosts, insanity, adultery, suicide, play within a play, blood shed on the stage etc. Kyd's <i>The Spanish Tragedy</i> , Shakespeare's <i>Hamlet</i> are two examples of revenge tragedy.
Romantic comedy	It is a form of comedy that deals with love, often love at first sight. Shakespeare's <i>As You Like It</i> is a romantic comedy.
Tragedy	A kind of drama that stages the fall of a superior human being for his/her some flaws.
The theatre of absurd/Absurd play	It is a kind of modern drama that portrays the absurdity, meaninglessness of human existence, man's isolation and loneliness. Beckett's <i>Waiting for Godot</i> is an absurd play.
Tragi-comedy	A kind of play that involves both tragic and comic scenes. Shakespeare's <i>The Winter's Tale</i> , Dryden's <i>Secret Love</i> are two tragi-comedies.

Fiction and Non-fiction (Prose)

Fiction refers to narrative writings from the imagination rather than from history and facts. Novels and short stories are two types of fiction.

Non-fiction is opposite to fiction and it is one kind of literature based on facts and history. Biography, autobiography, essay, fables, myth etc are of non-fiction types.

Terms	Definitions
Epistolary novel	A novel in the form of letters. Richardson's <i>Pamela</i> is an epistolary novel.
Fable	A very short allegorical story of animal characters which teaches a moral for human beings. Aesop's fables are best examples.
Gothic novel	A form of prose narrative that involves wild and horrific incidents and mysterious occurrences. Emily Bronte's <i>Wuthering Heights</i> and Dicken's <i>Great Expectations</i> are two gothic novels.
Legend	A story that focuses the greatness of a semi-heroic human being through some supernatural beings. Beowulf, Robin Hood are famous legendary figures.
Myth/mythology	Myth is an ancient story about Gods and Goddesses and their mysterious forces. And myths are collectively called mythology. For example Greek mythology, Roman mythology etc.
Novel	A fictitious prose narrative of considerable length dealing with human beings and their actions and characters within a particular society with a world vision.
Novelette	A work of prose fiction of intermediate length, and longer than a short story and shorter than a novel. Conrad's <i>Heart of Darkness</i> is a novelette.
Omniscient point of view	It refers to the narrator who knows everything about the characters, their actions, feelings and thoughts, and sometimes comments.
Pamphlet	An argumentative writing in prose on a political or religious controversy of a particular time. Milton's <i>Areopagitica</i> is a pamphlet.
Parable	An allegorical story of human characters which teaches a religious moral.
Picaresque novel	It is a kind of novel having a rogue or knave as its hero who takes adventures place to place. Henry Fielding's <i>Tom Jones</i> is an example.
Short story	A short prose fiction having one or very limited characters and a single theme. It can be read in one sitting. Maugham's <i>The Luncheon</i> and O'Henry's <i>The Gift of the Magi</i> are famous short stories.

Other Terms

Terms	Definitions
Allegory	Allegory is a story of double meanings, that is, one story is told in the guise of another story. Dryden's <i>Absalom and Achitophel</i> is a political allegory.
Antagonist	A main character with villainous features and opposite to protagonist or hero

Terms	Definitions
Classic	A piece of literature which has lived throughout the history. Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i> is a classic.
Classical	It refers to Greek or Roman literature or any literature that possesses the qualities of Greek or Roman literature.
Connotation	The indirect or inner meaning of a word.
Denotation	The direct or literal meaning of a word.
Diction	The selection of words in a writing or speech.
Didactic	A kind of writing intended to instruct.
Objectivity	A mode of expression in which writer's personal life remains absent from his/her writing. Homer, Virgil and Shakespeare are famous objective writers.
Poetic justice	Natural judgement that gives punishment to the wicked and reward to the virtuous.
Protagonist	The main character of a novel or drama. Actually, hero is the protagonist.
Satire	A literary attack on the follies and vices of an individual or a society through laughter and ridicule. For example, Swift's <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> , Orwell's <i>Animal Farm</i> .
Subjectivity	A mode of expression having writer's personal life, likes and dislikes. It is opposite to objectivity. For example, Wordsworth is a subjective poet.

47.2 Figures of Speech : Figures of Speech হচ্ছে কথার কৌশল, ভাষার অলংকার। অর্থাৎ কোনো কথাকে সরলভাবে প্রকাশ না করে একটু ঘুরিয়ে, রসজ্ঞ করে উপস্থাপন করাই হচ্ছে figures of speech। যেমন—

► Which figure of speech do you find in the following expression?

"I wandered lonely as a cloud"

- (ক) simile ✓ (খ) metaphor
(গ) personification (ঘ) alliteration

বাহিরাগমন ও পাসপোর্ট
অধিদপ্তরের সহকারী
পরিচালক ২০১৪

47.2.1 Figures of speech Index : গুরুত্বপূর্ণ কিছু figures of speech নিয়ে আলোচনা করা হলো :

A. Alliteration : It is a figure in which the same sound, letter or syllable is repeated in a sequence of repeated word. অর্থাৎ একই ধরনের শব্দ বা অক্ষরের পাশাপাশি অবস্থান। যেমন—

► 'mist and mellow fruitfulness'— Which of the following figures of speech is used in this sentence?

- (ক) Alliteration ✓ (খ) Metaphor
(গ) Onomatopoeia (ঘ) Personification

সরকারি মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ের
সহকারী শিক্ষক ২০০৬

B. Antithesis : In it, contrasted words or ideas are placed against each other in the form of balance. অর্থাৎ বিপরীতার্থক দুটি idea বা words ব্যবহৃত হয়ে কোনোকিছুকে balance করে। যেমন—

- i. Art is long, life is short.
ii. Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven.
iii. God made the country, man made the town.

C. Conceit : In it, two different objects of different nature are compared.

যেমন—

"If they be two, they are two so

A stiff win compasses are two;

Thy soul, the fix'd foot, makes no show

To move, but doth, if the other do."

এখানে Compass-এর দুটি বাহুর সাথে দুজন প্রেমিকের দুটি Soul-এর তুলনা করা হচ্ছে।

D. Epigram : It is a brief and witty statement which is apparently self-contradictory. অর্থাৎ আপাতঃদৃষ্টিতে দুটি উক্তি বা বিষয় বিপরীত মনে হলেও মূলত তারা একে অপরের পরিপূরক। যেমন—

i. Failures are the pillars of success.

ii. Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought.

iii. The child is father of the man.

E. Epithet or Hypallage : In this figure, an epithet (adjective) is used before a person or thing to which it does not belong to. যেমন—

i. We passed a *restless* night.

ii. They crossed a *weary* way.

iii. He spent a *happy* day.

F. Euphemism : Something harsh or offensive is stated in an agreeable or pleasant way. অর্থাৎ কোনো রূঢ় বা শক্ কথ্য ভদ্রভাবে উপস্থাপন করা। যেমন—

i. You said what was not. (you told a lie)

ii. He is short in his accounts. (he is poor)

iii. The old man breathed his last. (died)

G. Hyperbole or Exaggeration : It is an overstatement for any person or thing. অর্থাৎ অতিরঞ্জিত করে কিছু বলা। যেমন—

▶ "Ten thousand saw I at a glance" is a figure of speech known as—

(ক) hyperbole ✓

(খ) litotes

(গ) irony

(ঘ) satire

চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
ইউনিট B-1 ২০১৪-১৫

H. Irony : Irony may be a statement, a situation or an action which actually means the opposite of its surface meaning. অর্থাৎ যা বলা হয় তার বিপরীত বোঝানো হয়। যেমন—

▶ The word 'merit' in the sentence 'The boy showed his merit by making twenty mistakes in ten minutes' is an example of —

(ক) irony ✓

(খ) metaphor

(গ) personification

(ঘ) pun

I. Litotes : It is a negative statement that suggests a very strong affirmative. যেমন—

i. This is no common speech. (uncommon)

ii. He is not bad. (good)

iii. I praise you not. (blame)

J. Metaphor : It is an implicit (অন্তর্নিহিত) comparison between two dissimilar or different things. যেমন—

- i. Simi is a rose.
- ii. I will drink life to the lees.
- iii. Life is but an empty dream.

K. Oxymoron : It is a figure in which two contradictory words are put together or side by side. যেমন—

- i. I fear and hope, I burn and freeze in ice.
- ii. They have a plentiful lack of wit.
- iii. It is an open secret matter.

L. Paradox : A statement that seems to be absurd or self-contradictory but bears a rational meaning. অর্থাৎ আপাতদৃষ্টিতে বিরোধী মনে হলেও তা যৌক্তিক। যেমন—

► 'There is no one so poor as a wealthy miser.' This is an example —.

খুলনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় (কলা ও মানবিকস্বল) ২০১১-১২

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| ক) paradox ✓ | খ) synecdoche |
| গ) consonance | ঘ) caesura |

M. Personification : It is a figure in which inanimate or lifeless objects or abstract ideas are given life or personality. অর্থাৎ কোনো বস্তু বা ধারণাকে ব্যক্তি বৈশিষ্ট্য প্রদান করাই হচ্ছে Personification। যেমন—

► 'The waves beside them danced' (from 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud') is an example of :

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|-------------|----------------------|
| ক) simile | খ) metaphor |
| গ) metonymy | ঘ) personification ✓ |

N. Simile : It is an explicit (বাহ্যিক) comparison between two dissimilar or different things with the use of 'as' and 'like'. যেমন—

► 'We have short time to stay, as you' (from the poem 'To Daffodils') is an example of :

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- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| ক) symbol | খ) metaphor |
| গ) simile ✓ | ঘ) metonymy |