



THE IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE IN BUILDING OF OUR NATION

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Abstract

This is a sociolinguistic paper which discusses about the importance of Language and Literature in Building of the nation. Language and Literature play a vital role in developing the Nation. Nation-Building is developing national identity using the power of the state. Literature is one of the major contributory factors in the building of nation. Its roles are many and varied. Literature has had a major effect on the developing society. It has shaped civilization, changed the political system and exposed injustice. Literature gives us a detailed preview of human experience, allowing us to connect on basis levels of desire and emotion. Even Education is believed to be an instrument for the promotion of peace, integration & unity. Therefore this paper explores that language education can be used as a roadmap to national development and democratic greatness. Literature warns people of danger and instructs by opening people's eyes to a wide range of experiences and a deeper understanding of these experiences.

Key words- Constitution, Literature, Language, Culture, Contributory Factor, Integration & Unity, Roadmap, Nation building.

INTRODUCTION

Language is the medium through which people's culture is transmitted. It is a key to identity which serves as a storeroom of a people's culture, industry, and exploits. It is language that differentiates the homo-species from other animals. The most effective tool of a people's culture is their mother tongue. Native languages are treasures of culture and self-identity. It is a requisite cultural inheritance with which all forms of human interactions are carried out. It is the main way to the heart of the people. If we are misguided, we lose the people. If we paragon the key and keep it safe, it will unravel the way to wealth or affluence, thus bringing about national development.

Language is a substance in educational development which is an important key to national development. Qualitative education in any nation is not a luxury, but a crucial to national development. In order to achieve national cohesion and unity, Indigenous language is the most important tool with which society is organized, and it is hardly possible to talk of national improvement without including the language with which the people formulate their thoughts and ideas. **With the help of language the nation maintained and still maintaining their social, political and commercial status.** Language can be very useful in the building of nation's reputation as language represents their values and ethics.

It provides political awareness and socio-political stability. Government's programs and policies reach with the use of indigenous languages. National unity depends largely on the understanding of each other's language and culture. This is why it considers being in the interest of national unity that each child should be encouraged to learn one of the three major National languages other than his own Mother Tongue. Concord means strength or power, and it is language that empowers and unifies people. Languages hence confer power on a nation.²

IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE:

Language is the most central and important tool for youth empowerment. It is a tool for the uplifting of the underprivileged, the marginalized, the un-informed or the illiterates in the society. The culture of reforms initiated by the previous administration is designed to engender sustainable change in democratic governance. This reform is to be carried out through education, and language is the tool for doing this.³ Empowerment is the process whereby people are enabled or given the opportunity to improve in order to give to positive change. It takes varied forms and magnitudes which include activities like individual self-assertion, self-improvement, collective bargaining or resistance in order to challenge existing power relations.

Youth empowerment is a re-branding creativity, as the empowered youths are likely to shun corruption and make a positive contribution to national economic growth, peace, security, and political stability. There is no literature without language.⁵ Culture and languages too are inseparable and intricately interwoven. They play a vital role in man's education and national development. Literature is an art which entertains and instructs. Proverbs, for instance, are a lesson in cautiousness, munificence, patience, and wisdom all of which are indispensable to the guidance of mankind and the stability of the society. Literature adds to reality. It does not simply describe it. It enriches the needed competencies that daily life requires and provides; and in this respect, it irrigates the deserts, that our lives have already become. (C.S. Lewis)¹

Through historical literature, our knowledge of the society is expanded. We learn from historical literature about apparently immortal despots and their ignoble and sorrowful end, and that their

mysterious death was engendered by the avalanche of atrocities and carnage they had masterminded and executed.⁶ This knowledge helps people in charting new and humanistic, socio-political and economic course, which leads to a new world order. This is the support of literature to national development.

Culture is the particular systems of art, thought and custom of a society. It is the whole way of life of a people, the social heritage that the individual acquires as a member of his group. It is the complete attitude, perception and specific traits of civilization that deliberate to a people and its place in the universe. These traits are speech norms, etiquette, ideologies, ethics, stereotypes, artifacts, technologies, intellectual production, etc. Language whether foreign or indigenous is thus a remarkable mark of a people's identity. The teaching and learning of languages, literature, and culture will afford the learner an understanding of the problems of the society.⁵

It is perhaps the most appropriate description of the importance of literature in our lives. Literature always reminds us of stories, epics, sacred scriptures and classical works of the ancients & modern society. Literature is defined as the body or written works of a language, period or culture, produced by scholars, researchers and specialized in a given field. As stated in the quotation by C.S. Lewis, literature not only describes reality but also adds to it.¹ Yes, Literature is not merely depiction of reality; it is rather a value- addition. Literary works are depictions of the thinking patterns and social norms prevalent in society. Language and literature are a vehicle of thought and the expression of culture. It represents a people's way of life, their perception of things and their world view. It endows children and the youth to take charge of their lives. It includes the achieved skills and knowledge that would prepare them for the world of work. Literature, whether spoken or written, is the vehicle through which knowledge is imparted, and knowledge is power.

Literature presents situations, interactions and oppositions. It suggests a wide range of values and attitudes. A good piece of literature can be related as a reliable mirror depict of its society and time. To comprehend an ethnic group and their culture one may have to turn to their oral and written narratives, their drama and poetry.

True, languages are the building blocks of literature.² Therefore; literature is always giving as reliable sources of information from all around the world. In fact, literature cannot be limited to an educational curriculum. Literature, is certainly, much more than its literary meaning. A degree in language and literature is perhaps powerless to provide one, with everything that literature can offer. Which defines it as 'an acquaintance to letters'. Literature enriches the mind and reading, as they say, makes a man perfect.⁴ There is a book for each one's choice. All said and done, the literary enlightenment of a society is the true measure of its development and progress and India is a land with rich literary heritage and one that people all over the world looking forward for direction. Today there are books available on a variety of subjects, books meant for education, books meant for self- development.

It, in fact, lays the foundation of an enriched life; it adds 'life' to 'living'. Literature is also a medium of expressing the public's opinion in a different of categories. It tells us of our rich culture and gives us a sense of pride in our country.³ Literature is the lighthouse of any culture and to know any culture better. we must come to know that its literature only who gives us a true & perfect pictures of the culture and its improvement. The extant remains of the literary texts of earlier civilizations throw on our past and gauge our development.

They can attempt to create, view and act as a critic.⁵At last, and Language, literature and culture are inseparable as tools for national development and as veritable tools for national rebranding. Literature is the medium of the socio-cultural philosophy of the people, and the weapon of sustenance. There is no literature without language. In literary language, criticism is an artistic armament for sanitizing the society. Literature through language, warns people of dangerous and anti-social practices, ridicules people of mean and despicable character, criticizes such evils like corruption, injustice, nepotism, bribery, economic and political sabotage, oppression, colonialism and neo-colonialism, dictatorship, racism or color segregation, literary theft, money laundering, examination malpractice, cultism, armed robbery, militancy, abduction, drug peddling, human trafficking, election rigging, arson, sectarian crisis, looting, extra-judicial killing, etc.⁷ Good poetry, songs and music, especially those philosophical ones which extol good virtues and deride ignoble course or action are capable of correcting societal ill Literature is the study of human nature.⁴ We see human nature through tragedy and romance, joy and sorrow, in epiphanies and denial.in moments of heroism and in moments of cowardice. It teaches us to analysis a character, allows us to reach inside his or her mind so we see what drives a character, what shapes his or her beliefs and how one relates to others.

CONCLUSION

Does literature and language make the world a better place, or is it quite useless? A similar question- has literature truly had any impact upon society? Has it fashioned or molded minds? Has it shaped opinion and altered how people feel or think? This is a very ancient puzzle, and no one has solved it yet. Is it practicable in or relevant to society and its individuals' daily lives? Literature reflects life. It is a portrait of history, whether it is history of the current moment or an event in the past or something of the imagination.⁸ Some of the great literary works like Bible and Indian epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata, among others, provide society with the guiding principles of life.⁴ Literature is one of the most ways to shape the thinking of society. Literature, hence, is considered to be the mirror that enables people, especially the young, to learn from the mistakes of the past.

Literature has had a major effect on the development of society. It has shaped civilization, changed political system and exposed injustice. Literature gives us a detailed preview of human experience, allowing us to connect on basis levels of desire and emotion. "Literature provides

insight into the minds of other human beings, into the mind of the author and the minds of the character he or she brings to life.” said Sophie Chamas, international studies student at AUS.⁵ It provides one with the opportunity to further one’s education to continuously learn new things and be exposed to excess of ideas.⁴

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