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**CRITICAL AWARENESS OF ENGLISH LITERATURE- A REVIEW**

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**ABSTRACT**

Learning English language and literature brings about considerable questions of the benefits and the importance of so doing, the ultimate matter remains the same- what is the very core of learning the subject, what are the relationships embraced? What, Why, and How are we supposed to know that? However, the study of English literature is more than just English. It is about nearly all facets of society lives from which the English literary work spring up. That is, English speaking people of certain country, academic, working, religious and cultural backgrounds and political leanings and of certain times express various aspects of their lives in written English. The main objectives of studying the literary work are to enrich our knowledge and understanding of the high values of morality and wisdom they contain. However, to know what and English literary work is all about and the messages it wants to convey requires know- how that include English skill and strategies.

Keywords: Literature, English Language, Knowledge, tradition.

**Introduction**

As is known, English studies may comprise of English linguistics, English teaching and English literature. This three studies are the logical next step of efforts to acquire skills in understanding and using English, particularly for those who aspire to broaden and deepen their knowledge and mastery of English. Therefore, an acceptable degree of English mastery is required to study English literature, for example the higher ones mastery of English the stronger is ones English sense and hence more sensitive is ones knowledge and critical awareness about English literature. More than that, this paper argues that English language and English literature are in fact inseparable with one needing the other. However the study of English literature is more than just English. It is about nearly all facets of society lives from which the English literary work spring up. That is, English speaking people of certain country, academic, working, religious and cultural backgrounds and political leanings and of certain times express various aspects of their lives in written English. The main objectives of studying the literary work are to enrich our knowledge and understanding of the high values of morality and wisdom they contain. However, to know what and English literary work is all about and the messages it wants to convey requires know- how that include English skill and strategies.

### Language and literature: Unseparated mates

There are many definitions of language comprehensive, deep, or simple ones. According to Chomsky, language is a set (finite or infinite) of sentences. Each finite in length and constructed out of a finite set of elements. A language both reflects and affects a culture's way of thinking. In comparison, Oxford dictionary defines language as the method of human communication, either spoken or written, consisting of the use of words in a structured and conventional way. Language contains rules and elements, takes both spoken or written form, reflects the speaker's culture and way of thinking and it is significantly used to communicate ideas. Literature, in fact, does not have less meaning than language. Literature referring to literary writings such as fictions or literature in terms of major of study. Literature referring to literary writing could be defined as the achievement of aesthetic and moral merit such as those of canon or great tradition. Or else, it is understood as the creative and imaginative writing. Merriam Webster illustrates literature as writings having excellence in form or expression and ideas of permanent or universal interest. Literature has the so-called a range of characteristics such as excellent, aesthetic, creative, imaginative, expressive, valuable and universal. Therefore, in delivering its characteristics and entity, a tool-language is unavoidably necessary. It becomes the only choice and its ultimate means. Now that definitions of both language and literature have been set, their relations are consequently visible. In the digital world glossary, it can be termed that literature is the message, language is the mobile phone those two relationships are closely bound and would not be separated in whatsoever ways.

### Know "Why, What, How :In the study of English literature"

The study of English literature can only occur with the presence of the why, what, how balance. Many literary works have high values of morality and wisdom lessons in many different places at different times. Any writings or text that function to enrich our knowledge and our understanding and empower ourselves are essential. People learn particular things from particular sources and thus they have the capacity to give values to any works that are considered precious. There is always a belief that any literary works will certainly give certain meanings to a certain people. Further, the value embedded in a literary work is given by anyone who reads and responds to it based on their own-experiences, purposes, and interpretation. In addition, as far as English literature is concerned, there is language and power issue. Who rules the world seems to be the one with English as their first language. Although nowadays the distinction between English as the first, second or third is hard to tell, the central power still looks the same. This means that English language mastery that may result from studying English literature is a precondition to gain power. However we cannot learn the lessons and capture the messages from an English literary work unless we know what it is all about. The inherent relationships between the text and context, consequently, provide more values to the work. Furthermore, extensive ways to interpret a literary work have resulted in a rich critical analysis combining interdisciplinary knowledge such as sociology, psychology and history. Indeed, it is enrichment beyond literature as a text. Further, the study of English literature takes literature as its object of study. The knowledge of English literature may include the English literary tradition, genre, western culture, local context, and analysis of literary text in detail. Method, strategies and techniques used in the study of English literature need to adjust to individual purposes of study. A close reading of a literary work through language analysis might be a good start. Yet, in order to know how to relate and investigate a literary work, learners need to understand the background of the writer, the society in which the work is made and the author's personal experience with the work. They also need what kinds of approaches that need to be applied to analyse a literary work. In a learning process as well as teaching process, skills, methods and strategies are used as ways to acquire knowledge. Without them, the learning teaching process will be unorganized and incoherent. In English literature, for example, might be the knowledge of significant starting points before analysing poetry, prose or plays. Before reading Nathaniel Hawthorne's Scarlet Letter, for instance, the knowledge of genre will significantly have the reader in understanding the novel.

### Conclusion

In fact, the presence of the why, what, how balance is required in learning any subject while knowing why expect gives the ideas of the importance of and background of such a learning process. Know what aspect limits

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the scope of the object of learning. Further know how aspect explains the way in which a learning process could be conducted.

Firstly, learning English literature is a construct in the whole body of learning. Since it is a construct, it should have a system. The system, in this case, serves as the correlation and interrelationship between its parts. Learners are best given more chances to explore and express their understanding of a literary work through short papers or essays. Secondly, since the study of English literature is also meant to develop positive values embedded in a literary work in order to acquire critical thinking, the syllabus should be designed to support learners to discover knowledge. The materials that are going to be discussed should be arranged to suit the goal of study.

Thirdly, methods, strategies and techniques are formulated to suit the content and material to assist learners in the learning process in order to achieve the goal of studies.

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