

2nd Edition

A Comprehensive Handbook for Ordinary Level Literature in English

For Secondary Schools

Best for Literature Students: Forms 3 & 4

■ THEORY OF LITERATURE

■ NOVELS

● Houseboy

● The Old Man and the Medal

● The Concubine

● Sundiata

■ PLAYS

● The Lion and the Jewel

● Dilemma of a Ghost

● Trials of Brother Jero

● Kinjeketile

■ POETRY

● Selected Poems

● Growing Up with Poetry

Current Books

EMMANUEL KACHELE



ISBN 978 9912 9931 1 2

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A COMPREHENSIVE HANDBOOK FOR ORDINARY LEVEL
LITERATURE IN ENGLISH
FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Best for Literature Students: Forms 3 & 4

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EMMANUEL KACHELE



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ISBN 978 9912 9931 1 2

Published by:



KACHELE ONLINE

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Mpanda, Katavi.

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First Edition 2018

Second Edition 2022

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I sincerely acknowledge the good support I have been receiving from **Mr Reuben Swilla** (my first Headmaster from Mwese Secondary School). He has been my precious guide since 2012. I also specifically extend my gratitude to Headmistress of Karema High School, **Ms Elinesi Mwangomba** for her support and recognition of my work.

I can't forget my fellow teachers from English Language and Literature Department from the following schools: **Lukima Secondary School** (Mbinga, Ruvuma, from 2011 – 2012), **Mwese Secondary School** (Tanganyika DC, Katavi, from 2012 – 2014), **Karema High School** (Tanganyika DC, Katavi, from 2015 – 2019), and **Sibwesa Secondary School** (Tanganyika DC, Katavi, from 2019 – present) for their linguistic and departmental support.

I also thank my fellow UDOM Alumni: **Mwalimu Nicholas Mwanjabala**, **Mwalimu Million Luka**, and **Mwalimu Leonard Mshang'a** for their mutual support for my work.

I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to all my students wherever they are for their support and trust.

Emmanuel Kachele
2022



PREFACE

In this Second Edition of “*A Comprehensive Handbook for Ordinary Level Literature*”, the analyses of the following texts have been added to the store:

Novels:

- (1) The Concubine
- (2) Sundiata, and

Plays:

- (1) Trials of Brother Jero

Also in this edition, new Notes for the ‘**THEORY OF LITERATURE**’ have been added. These notes have been prepared in accordance with the new Syllabus.

This book has been written to help students’ understanding of English Language usage and preparation for the Ordinary Level Certificate of Secondary School Education (CSEE) in Tanzania.

The core aim of this book is to assist Form Two Students to understand and use English Language confidently and competently in their daily life and working experiences.

I am optimistic that students who are learning English Language will find this book useful in meeting their learning needs.

Emmanuel Kachele 2022





AN INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE (THEORY OF LITERATURE)

01. BASIC CONCEPTS OF LITERATURE

INTRODUCTION

Almost everything needs some preparation. Students need some preparation for a specified time before they sit for final exams.

For example, you may theoretically learn how to identify themes/issues when you learn Introduction to Literature, but you can practically identify them when you are actually reading or analysing a book itself.

BASIC CONCEPTS OF LITERATURE

The following are the basic concepts of literature:

[1] THEORY

A theory is a body of rules or principles used to appraise works of literature.

Theories are learnt, then they are put into practice after that.

[2] LITERARY THEORY

Literary theory refers to the methods used in interpreting and analysing various works of literature.

[3] LITERARY CRITICISM

Literary criticism refers to the critical study, interpretation, and analysis of literary works by using all elements of literature.

[4] CRITIC

This is a person who applies different forms of literary theories and criticism to study, interpret and analyse different works of art.

[5] GENRE

A genre refers to a category or type of literature. Literature is divided into three main sub-genres, namely; Prose, drama, and poetry.

[6] FICTION WRITING

This is the writing or composition of non-factual texts. For example, "Houseboy".

[7] NONFICTION WRITING

This is the writing or composition of factual texts. For example, "The Autobiography of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere".

CONCLUSION

In most cases, Theory of Literature is important because it introduces students to major techniques and approaches of studying, interpreting and analysing literature. To Ordinary Level Secondary Students it sets a path to the more advanced studies of Literature in other levels.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[1] Write short notes on the following:

- (a) Theory
- (b) Literary theory
- [2] Differentiate the following:
 - (a) Literary criticism and critic
 - (b) Fiction writing and Nonfiction writing
- [3] Define the term 'Genre' and describe the main genres of literature.



02. OVERVIEW OF THE TERM LITERATURE

INTRODUCTION

Literature as a separate discipline has been defined differently by several scholars. The simplest definition of literature is that it is simply anything that is written. So, textbooks, brochures, newspapers, manuals and so on are all forms of literature.

For instance, if you buy a Television Set, you will be given its instructions manual (it's literature). However, not any writing can be termed as 'literature' because for a composition to be called 'literature' it must have some literary values.

DEFINITIONS OF TERM 'LITERATURE'

The term 'Literature' has been defined as follows:

- (1) Literature is defined as a piece of writing that is valued as a work of art, especially novel, play, and poetry.
- (2) Literature also refers to the creative and imaginative writing which is designed to engage readers emotionally and intellectually.
- (3) Literature is a reflection of social, political, economic, and cultural realities.

Conclusively, there are various definitions of literature but all of them amount to one, that is, literature is an art that uses language creatively to portray social and personal experiences.

CONCLUSION

Various scholars have defined the term Literature and it has remained with its core aspects such as artistic nature of it, creativity it has, its uniqueness in using the language, and its purposes in the society.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- [1] What is Literature?
- [2] Why is it that everything written is not literature?



03. ORIGIN OF LITERATURE

INTRODUCTION

(1) Where did literature start?

(2) How did literature develop into the present form?

These are the questions that have to be clearly understood by both teachers and students. Understanding these questions will help us understand where we came from, where we are and where we have to go from here as far as literature is concerned.

ORIGIN OF LITERATURE

The origin of literature is entirely connected with the productive activities which began after the emergence of man on the earth. So, when the man was trying to survive, he started conducting production activities.

In these production activities, speech (language) was developed by man and then literature started to emerge. These production activities which brought about the development of literature were:

1. Farming
2. Fishing
3. Building
4. Hunting
5. Social gatherings



These activities helped the man to produce songs and these songs were accompanied by men's physical movements of arms and legs. In the end, these songs simplified the works.

Along with other forms of literature like wall drawings, decorations, sculpture, and pottery, literature also existed long even before the development of human language.

Later, literature gained its momentum the very first day the language was growing out of people's social interactions.

ORIGIN OF THE TERM 'LITERATURE'

The term literature is derived from the Latin word "*Littera*" which means '*a letter of the alphabet*' or in plural "*Litterae*", meaning 'letters'. This means that originally the term literature meant anything written down although there was much oral literature found in any society.

However, in the 18th century, the term 'literature' took its modern (present-day) usage and the current meaning was generally attached to the term Literature, that is, literature is a body of writing by a people or by peoples using the same language orally or in written forms.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, literature is a form of human expression. But not everything expressed orally or in written form is counted as literature even when it is well organized. Writing is said to be 'literature' only if it succeeds in possessing artistic merit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(1) "Literature developed out of people's early interactions." Discuss

- (2) How did literature evolve into the present form?
- (3) How did the term 'literature' evolve into the present form?
- (4) In pairs or groups, discuss the kind of literature you know and how it evolved in your local community



04. LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

INTRODUCTION

Language is defined as a tool of communication among human beings in a particular community. On the other hand, literature is also a tool of communication between author and audience. Therefore, the author uses language to communicate or convey his/her literature to his/her intended audience/readers. Language and literature depend on each other. They are inseparable.

When we teach or learn literature at school, college or University, we need language. When we teach or learn language, we also need various literature materials to make the lesson complete. For example, we cannot study four language skills without reading literature. This and other learning experiences prove to us that language is very important in studying literature. So, there is no literature without language and there is no language without literature.

IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE IN LITERATURE

The following are the significances of language in literature:

- (1) Language is the medium (vehicle) through which literature is conveyed.
- (2) Literature is created by language. This means there would be no literature if there is no language.
- (3) Literature transforms the ordinary language into a creative one.
- (4) Language is improved when reading literature. We read various literary texts to improve our language.
- (5) Language helps students to develop skills in reading, interpreting and analysing literary works.
- (6) Language in literature helps to expose students to real-life situations after reading various literary works.
- (7) Language in literature increases cultural enrichment to students.

CONCLUSION

Literature is termed creative and imaginative writing because it employs language in peculiar ways. It is a distinctive art that uses language creatively and artistically as its medium of communication in forwarding the message to the intended audience.

So, we can say that language cannot be separated from literature and literature too cannot be separated from language. They are like two sides of the same coin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- (1) Differentiate language from literature.
- (2) What is the importance of language in literature?
- (3) How important is the language in literature?

- (4) "Language and literature are inseparable." Discuss.
- (5) Describe how your local language is important in delivering or conveying your local literature.



05. FUNCTIONS OF LITERATURE

INTRODUCTION

According to the Marxist ideology, literature is one of the forms of social consciousness. And indeed, literature is a reflection of life in its all aspects.

Literature is the study of man; his feelings or emotions; his needs; his relationships to his society; his contractions within himself and his community and his responses to all these aspects. Hence, the function of literature is to discuss all these aspects and whole human relationships.

WHY DO PEOPLE READ LITERATURE?

In fact, we all read literature for a variety of reasons. These reasons may change in accordance with our age, our interest, and the kind of literature we read.

- (i) Our basic reason for reading literature is probably pleasure. We read literature mostly because we enjoy it. Reading literature for pleasure may take various forms:
- We may read just to pass the time.
 - We may read so as to find pleasure in learning about the life of a certain place or person.
 - We also read simply for enjoyment we get from the arrangement of words and moral sayings.
 - We also find pleasure even in reading about comedy and other comic stories.

Others, though not all, find or hold that pleasure is the sole end.

- (ii) Also we often read literature for information and knowledge:
- We find possible solutions to our problems when we meet people in books whose problems are like our own.
 - Through literature we sometimes understand situations we could not otherwise understand in real life.
 - Some critics still hold that the true ends of literature are to instruct and delight, that is, not only giving us the knowledge but also leaving us delighted.

Thus, by summing up, literature has got different roles to perform in the society as follows:

FUNCTIONS OF LITERATURE

- (i) **To educate people.** Literature teaches people on existing social, political and economic systems. For after reading "*Three Suitors One Husband*" what is the play teaching you today?
- (ii) **To express people' culture.** Literature like language is an element of culture. It expresses people's life and culture they have from one generation to another. For example, after reading

“*Hawa the Bus Driver*” what culture is conveyed in the story? Or what is the men’s culture or beliefs towards women in the story?

- (iii) **To entertain people.** Literature as an art form gives those entertainments that appeal to human lives and evoke pleasure to the readers. For example, after reading “*Kalulu the Hare*” what things in the story make you laugh/enjoy? Or did any incident in “*Three Suitors One Husband*” make you laugh?
- (iv) **To influence people in the society.** Literature is also designed to influence people by instilling in them the revolutionary ideas and different ways of thinking especially those positive and sustainable ideas. For example, what way of life do you think Atangana’s family should take after what have happened to them in “*Three Suitors One Husband*”? or what is the influence of “*Unanswered Cries*” to the African societies that undergo female genital mutilation?
- (v) **To develop language.** Literature uses language. Therefore, in so doing, literature develops and improves a particular language through all four language skills, namely, listening, speaking, reading, and writing to the readers. It also improves vocabulary and grammar. For example, are there any sayings in “*The Lion and the Jewel*”? What vocabulary items are used in ‘*Fast Money*’? Or does a language used in ‘*The Magic Garden*’ makes you laugh?
- (vi) **To liberate people.** Literature also liberates people or awakens them from unfavorable conditions of life or bad treatments in the society. For example, after reading Olabisi’s life in ‘*Unanswered Cries*’ a person who participates in female genital mutilation can be awakened and stop practicing that tradition. Or many men can be aware of women’s ability by reading various literature about women including “*Hawa the Bus Driver*” and “*Mabala The Farmer*”.
- (vii) **To criticize the society.** Literature as a tool for awareness criticizes the society by pointing out the evils and other injustices in the society. When criticized, the people in the particular society take necessary actions. For example, the novel “*Passed Like a Shadow*” criticizes the society that is loose in this era of HIV/AIDS disease. “*Unanswered Cries*” is also criticizing the societies that practice female genital mutilation in some African societies.

CONCLUSION

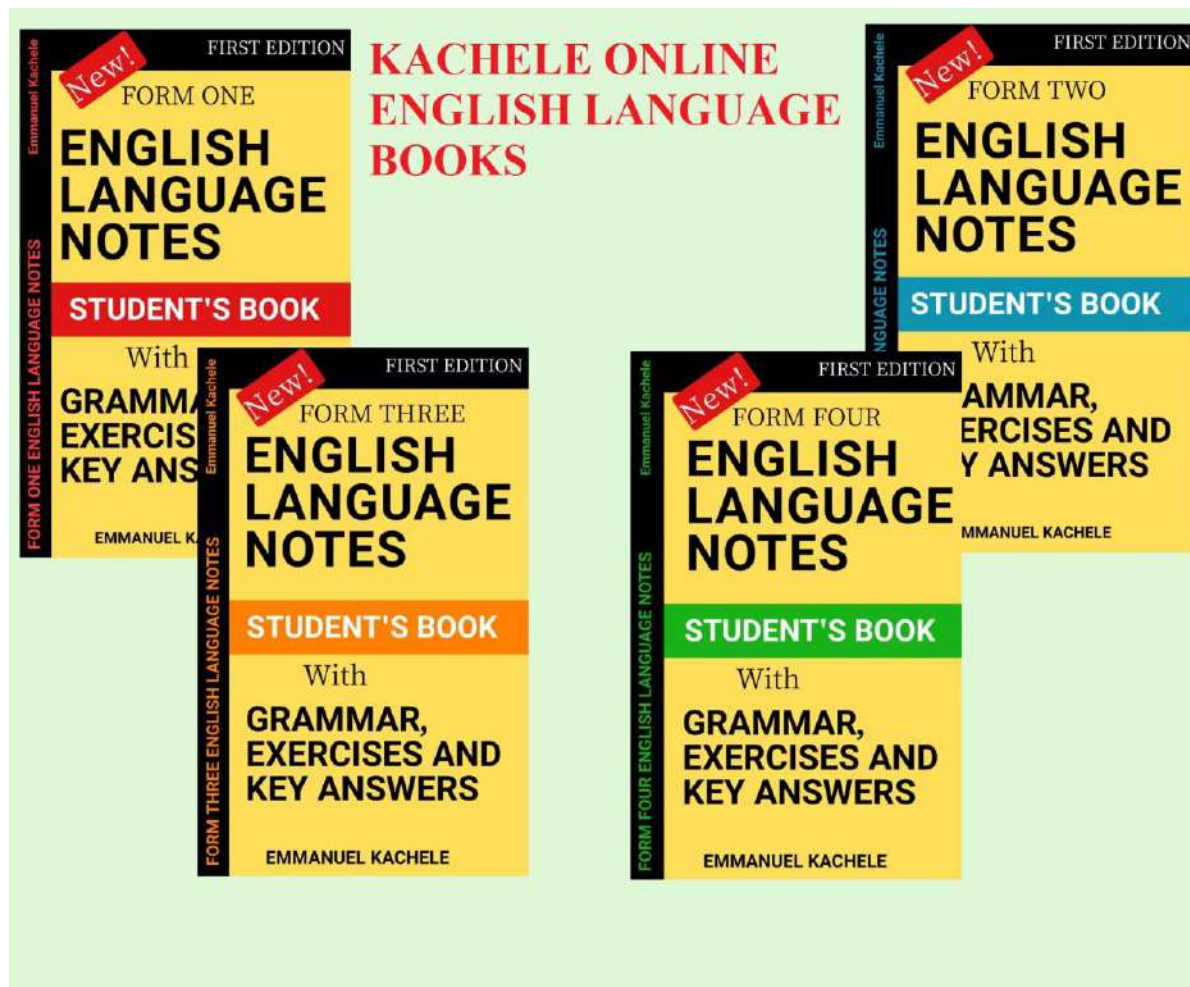
The literature will be meaningless if it does not help society to become better. To do this effectively, literature has to warn, criticise, educate, and liberate the people in a particular society.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- (1) Explain the reasons why people read literature for pleasure.
- (2) Discuss the reasons why we read literature for information and knowledge.
- (3) "Literature has special purposes to serve in the society." Prove this statement.
- (4) In five paragraphs, criticize any character you know from any literary work you have read in Secondary School.

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