


An Introduction to Poetry

Terms and Types



“Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility”

-William Wordsworth



“Poetry is the human soul entire,
squeezed like a lemon or a lime,
drop by drop, into atomic words

~Langston Hughes



What is Poetry?

- Poetry – the purest form of writing.
- Poetry is a sense of the beautiful. It is art.
- Like art it is very difficult to define because it is an expression of what the poet thinks and feels and may take any form the poet chooses for this expression.
- Poetry is not easily defined. Often it takes the form of verse, but not all poetry has this structure.
- Poetry is a creative use of words which, like all art, is intended to stir an emotion in the audience. Poetry generally has some structure that separates it from prose.



Unit I

- Subjective and objective poetry
- POETICAL TYPES
- 1. The Lyric – personal, emotions are included, songs accompanied with the musical instrument Lyre – themes of love and friendship, nature, pathos(sorrow)- Edgar Allen Poe of American Literature used lyric the most
- 2. The Ode
- 3. The Sonnet
- 4. The Elegy
- 5. The Idyll
- 6. The Epic
- 7. The Ballad
- 8. The Satire



POETRY IN GENERAL

Poetry

- **Subjective Poetry**
- **Objective Poetry**



Subjective Poetry

- The Themes of the poetry are external objects, such as deeds, events and the things we see around us, and that which is supplied by the poet's own thoughts and feelings.
- Subjective Poetry is Personal
- Poet is the subject of his poetry
- His emotions are expressed personally
- Examples : *Ode to Nightingale* by John Keats
- *Ode to the West Wind* by Shelley



Objective Poetry

In ancient times, the primitive people recorded some memorable deeds of courage and valour, incidents of war, bloodshed, a beautiful scenery and a noble sacrifice in oral form in their literature. The strolling minstrels used to sing songs with the accompaniment of lyre or any string instrument standing at the corners of streets and open space.

The songs were not recorded in any written form. But they were handed down from one generation to the next generation. Man didn't have the subjective outlook at the early stage in his development.

With the development of written script, the oral songs were recorded in the passage of time. And with the emergence of printing press, the valuable old literature could be published. The objective poetry is older than the subjective.



Subjective and Objective Poetry

Subjective or Personal Poetry

- self expression
- inspired by own experiences
- personal thoughts and feelings

Objective or Impersonal Poetry

- inspired by the actions and passions of the outside world
- little reference to his own personal thoughts and emotions



Types of Poetry

- Poetry can be classified into three categories or major types
 - Lyric
 - Narrative
 - Dramatic.

Examples of free verse poems and fixed form poems could be any of these types or even a combination of any of them

Types of Poetry

Narrative

*Epic
Ballad
Monologue
Tale
Metrical
Romance*

Lyric

*Elegy
Ode
Sonnet*

Dramatic

*Tragedy
Comedy
Tragi-
comedy
Closed
Drama
Masque*