

# Literary Terms

## Metaphysical Poetry

In 17th Century, the term-'Metaphysical poetry', was first used as a contempt against the poetry of John Donne, Abraham Cowley and Andrew Marvell, etc. by Dr. Samuel Johnson. It denotes the habitual deviation from naturalness of thought and style, for novelty and quaintness by these poets. Their wish was to say what they hoped had never been said before. They enjoyed in display of wit, far fetched images, hyperbole and conceits. Metaphysical poets wrote love poems that exhibited their cynical attitude towards fair sex, joys of conjugal love and Platonic love too.

In 20th Century, T.S Eliot revived Metaphysical poetry by calling it fruit of passionate thinking. He wrote-"A thought to Donne was an experience" and admired their talent by saying- "The figure of speech is elaborated to the farthest stage to which ingenuity can carry it in metaphysical poet."

## Impressionism

Impressionism is a 19th Century art movement originated with a group of Paris based artists who faced harsh criticism from the conventional art community. Such artists violated the rules of academic painting, painted realistic scenes of modern life and often painted outdoors in their consistent pursuit of an art of spontaneity, sunlight and colour.

The term Impressionism has also been used to describe works of literature in which a few select details suffice to convey the sensory impressions of an incident or scene. Impressionist Literature is closely related to symbolism. Authors such as Virginia Woolf, D.H Lawrence and Joseph Conrad have written works that are impressionistic in the way they describe rather than interpret the impressions, sensations and emotions that constitute a character's mental life.

## Interior Monologue

Interior Monologue, in Dramatic or Non-dramatic fiction is the narrative technique that exhibits thoughts passing through the minds of the protagonist. These expressions may be either loosely related impressions, free associations or more rationally structured sequence of thoughts and emotions.

Interior Monologue includes dramatized inner conflicts, self analysis, imagined dialogues and rationalization. It may be direct first person expression of a character who is free from control of the author. It may also be a third person treatment that begins with a phrase such as-"he thought...".

The term 'Interior Monologue' is often used interchangeably with 'stream of consciousness'. But while an interior monologue may mirror all the half thoughts, impressions and associations that impinge upon the character's consciousness, it may also be restricted to an organized presentation of that character's rational thoughts. It is closely related to soliloquy and dramatic monologue and has become a characteristic device of 20th century psychological novel.

### **Indo-Anglian Literature**

Indo- Anglian Literature or Indian English Literature is a specific term that refers to the works of writers in India who write in English. It's early history began with the writers like R.K. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao, Nissim Ezekiel, A.K Ramanujan, Girish Karnad, etc. who wrote in English language. It is also associated with the works of members of Indian diaspora (Writers of Indian origin living abroad) such as V.S. Naipaul, Kiran Desai, Jhumpa Lahiri, Salman Rushdie, etc.

The term Indo-Anglian literature should not be confused with the term Anglo- Indian Literature, which is a branch of English literature produced by Englishmen who lived in India, even if for a short while.

### **Anglo-Indian Literature**

Strictly speaking, Anglo- Indian literature is a branch of English literature produced by Englishmen who lived in India at least for some time. It is the literature of the Empire- a product of British encounter with India. To put it in simple words, Anglo-Indian literature is the outcome of the two different cultures that of the East and the West- come into contact. E.F. Oaten has observed regarding the main themes of Anglo-Indian literature- 'The first is the ever present sense of exile; the second, an interest in Asiatic religions; the third consists of the humorous sides of Anglo-Indian official life; the fourth is Indian native life and scenery'.

Anglo Indian literature had its greatest author in Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) who also received Nobel Prize for literature. The first few decades of Twentieth Century can be considered as the golden age of Anglo Indian literature. However, Anglo-Indian literature died its natural death with the independence of India. Works on India may still be written by British authors but they can no longer be considered as Anglo-Indian Literature.