

Odyssey

When discussing subjects like social reform, the evolution of empathy, or public awareness of current affairs, literature surpasses practical use. Any form of communication to be established as a language requires emotion, which creates meaning. Literature is the catalyst for a language that manufactures meaning. Any language lacking meaning isn't a language, a language without literature has no practical use. Picture the time of Victorian England, where everyone is familiar with "Oliver Twist" as well as the "prioritisation of societal benefit". This was a world where Dickens as a radical novelist would advocate for fiction having the ability to not just tug at the population's heartstrings but to uncover inequity and empower acts for positive change. This was a world where John Stuart Mill, the utilitarian philosopher, would cite Jeremy Bentham's principle of maximising aggregate well-being and question the purpose of literature not being towards promulgating practical knowledge, or behavioural instructions, but being towards emotional accounts. Regardless of literature's ability to challenge the status quo with its impact being less quantifiable, that world emphasises the need for computable results for society. Whereas the reality of that world was how tangible outcomes were worthy objectives, but not the only evaluation of practical use. A poem making a parent burst into tears, a play evoking youngsters to take action against the oppressed, and stories resorting to acts of compassion, were impossible to express without literature. Equivalently, in the contemporary world, Margaret Atwood's beliefs may contrast with those of Elon Musk's. Debating how knowledge can't be imprinted into the human brain, Atwood would argue how literature deals with the dishevelled, psychological centre of humans. Thus, this is a world where satisfaction without reflection is meaningless, where literature poses a challenge to us, makes us self-conscious, but provokes fundamental change. Ultimately,

the value of literature as a language lies in the ability of humans to derive opinions, the enduring capability of human narratives to thrive in a world run by technology, and the importance of being able to question assumptions in the paradigm shifts the world undergoes.

The foundation of human expression through communication wouldn't have been established without literature. Acting as a bridge between the emotions held within us and their external expression, literature can be scientifically argued as the basis of shaping mankind's sense of self. Darwin logically hypothesised that reactions on the surface pre-empt the changes related to emotions on the inside of the brain, which softens the line between interior and exterior exhibits of emotion. Therefore, literature leads to the expression of emotions and a self-feedback loop is created, which impacts succeeding actions. Cumulatively, these actions help in moulding social cohesion. Literature points out similarities within people's expressions and engenders a mutual understanding between people, proving how not only does it have practical use, but constitutes how everything in the world has practical use. Likewise, the intricate use of narratives makes one realise the assigning of values to opinions that help decide right and wrong, beauty and ugliness, or sweetness and bitterness. Literature in the form of narratives provides unorthodox realities, encountering unprecedented perspectives and working through complicated moral conflicts. Through this thought process, humans evaluate values. We think about the evil stepmother's actions as callous and sympathise with Cinderella's kindness. Literature helps us extrapolate these thoughts on a global scale by sharing knowledge as a method to develop holistic values and awareness. The language of literature consolidates a code of ethics to influence personal views and acknowledge injustice. Moreover, it is through the knowledge of the value of expression were we able to derive suitable social contracts (the combined decision to agree on conceding some liberties

to retrieve the benefits of living in a civil society). This is where literature proves that the social contract cannot be embraced by all members of society without its presence anchored in cultures, traditions, and stories. Communicating through expressions is what leads to a liberal society and ensures the concept of the greater good remaining active as per changing individual needs. Practically, while individual wants are superior in capitalistic governance, communal goodwill is also significant in giving traditions legitimacy, which can only happen through literature.

Looking at the prevalence of literature through fast-changing times and even faster technological progressions, it is reasonable to claim that there is a certain logic that literature provides that helps us understand how these events (technological advancements) take place. The passage of time is where the roots of logic lie. While the occurrence of heroes going through turmoil, decisions having consequences or actions causing reactions was heavily dependent on technological advances, the only way for the world to know about such endeavours was through literature. It was because of limitless experiments and rational hypotheses that individuals were able to determine the progress of their civilisations and arrive at a new era, which was one of a kind. Due to innumerable renditions of anecdotes, our forefathers sharpened their ability to rationalise and make ends meet in a logical order. Those records resonate within us given any circumstance. When faced with a problem, the mind innately thinks about analogies, for example. In ways that we fail to acknowledge, the value of literature is instinctual to the human mind, as we require it to make sense of the unknown. Psychologically, as suggested by Jerome Bruner's scaffolding theory, literature is crucial for social interactions which help foster cognitive development. It acts as a showcase of quarrels and character development which becomes a social compass for individuals, especially at a young age. Additionally, the world today is going through a face shift because of

the accelerated use of artificial intelligence, which makes it predictable to consider literature to be a tool used in the pre-logical past. Although, even in today's age, the value of narratives is incessant. While algorithms mirror human languages and attempt to generate content that is driven by feelings, they fail to submerge in the realm of the flawed and exist beyond the very logic that literature, as a language created. Even today, we require a space to navigate the immeasurable depth of human experience. Literature is a reminder of the fact that at the very core of logic is a story, and behind that story lies empathy, which makes a human being and contrasts us from machines.

Analysis. This elemental impulse stems from literature. The most preliminary stories integrated the skill of dissection, inspection, and interrogation. From novels to complex relationships, we delve into the details of our emotions to piece together the impact of experiences. This analytical approach to life is accumulated from inherent literary involvement in daily life, which goes on to become an instrument applicable in any field of knowledge or study. While the method in which narratives require analysis doesn't explicitly mirror the way that every walk of life requires, it teaches you the importance of reasoning, which is unanimously required: be it a historian coming to conclusions based on examination of primary data, an engineer deconstructing a machine, or a lawyer expanding on an argument. Literature reserves a deep purpose of verification. Through analysis, we can recognise true or false and determine purpose. Analysis is what helps one welcome the traces of progress. Beyond the rigid concepts of right and wrong, it helps us question the relevance and efficacy of everything. Consequently, individuals realise the necessity of the invention of material goods or immaterial methods to achieve a higher level of comfort. Despite a generation being aware of their comfort, subsequent generations would always be aware of certain

chronicles from the past that let them know of something superior yet to be encountered. This continuous process experienced by the restless mind is what makes a paradigm shift in the world. Literature teaches us that a paradigm shift is mandatory for the world to escape stagnation. A world yet to be discovered is desirable due to the human accounts of adventure that we know, an adventure yet to be experienced. Nevertheless, this new adventure cannot occur without discovery, and discovery will never happen without a risk. This is where the question that can hold the most ambiguous to the most specific answers is posed - what if? What if is the base camp for a paradigm shift. Therefore, due to literature, discoveries are crafted in any language through a certain perspective, which is enough for the world to get through thick and thin over time.

To encapsulate, chronologically, literature has offered us an insight into manoeuvring through the path of this complicated world by simplifying it. Primarily, the foundation of literature through the ability to conjure opinions was the foundation of everything in life (meaningful or futile), followed by human narratives being formed in the world seeing all sorts of technological developments, which ultimately led to the ability of humans to question assumptions about everything through the face shifts of the world. Hence, the core value of literature as a language lies in its persistence and the dependence and reliance of human behaviour on it.

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