

# The Importance of Studying History of English Literature: With Special Reference to TSP Area

Dr. Sangeeta Sharma\*

Associate Professor, English, Government M.G. College, Udaipur

**Abstract – English literature a large part of our educational system cannot be avoided and separated. Lack of reading habit and listening, limited time all only add to the problems for the students in TSP area. The importance of studying history of English literature lies in the fact that it will arise excitement, interest, the desire to learn and hear more about someone or something. Literature speaks to the students concern on social issues, lending them timeless idea; the Classics containing information that is directly applicable to life; understanding of human condition and deeper appreciation of modern problem. Literature will helps students to explore and analyses some of life's greatest questions; giving them the skills required for deeper thought process and directions to life. Literature in itself is an artistic form of human expression. It widens our experience and deepens our impulses and sensitivities.**

-----X-----

The present paper is an earnest attempt to answer certain queries which the topic arises. Why is it necessary to study History of English literature? How far is it fruitful in inspiring, in motivating the students in TSP area.

A man, to be greatly good  
must imagine intensely and,  
comprehensively, he must put  
himself in place of another and  
of many others, the pains and  
pleasures of his species must  
become his own, (Shelley)

Historical context then becomes an important part of life and literature. It connects individuals with larger truths and idea in a society. History of literature creates a way for people to record their thoughts and experiences through fictions carrying accounts of experience. In fact, history is inescapable; literature includes past ( what has been written) and history studies the past and the legacies of the past in the presents. It is history which connects things through time and encourages the students to take a long intensive and comprehensive view of such connections. Literature involves change and its history helps us understand the change; thus playing a pivot role in interpreting the world that surrounds us.

One who studies literature becomes aware of the power of language, acquires that insight which directs the students/ person to use the language according to requirements of time, place and the subject. It will give spiritual and psychological insights; it is for these reasons the study of the history of English acquires importance as it enriches us with wisdom, for an understanding of profound human experience, enables critical thinking, refines our general sense of appreciations. The students will be introduced to new worlds of experience. They will learn about books and literature; they may even grow and evolve during, through their literary journey with books, novels, stories plays etc.

The studying of history of English literature is fruitful from the point that it speaks to the readers, it is universal and has a lasting effects. It tends to make us aware of the facts, worth knowing, making us realise that they are not merely facts of things but our facts related to life. It raises questions like:

- What are human beings like?
- What can be expected from them?
- What is the psychology behind the behaviour as they do?
- What is the aim in life?

So literature reflects the society – it values – good or bad. It is a social document. It reflects what we see, what we experience in the society. Reading history may make students

- Aware of the mistakes, short comings of the society of which otherwise they would never know.
- Understanding of life and its realities.
- Reading history would be like training the students to proceed from the known to unknown.
- Understanding of the universal values of truth, goodness, greed, ambition, incest etc. which are still very relevant to our lives.
- Developing love for reading more and more books.
- Fluency in writing through increased reading activity.
- Increasing confidence and ability to speak publicly.
- Enhance critical thinking.
- To introduce the students to the history /thought that has made our country / world we live in.
- To make them realise that life does not revolve around an individual, the world is bigger than what we think.
- Make them feel interested, to dig deep into the situation / material understanding the context of why it is important?
- A strong understanding of the historical context can give students a better understanding of and appreciation for the situation/ narration.

Therefore to know the social – cultural perspective, to understand the psycho- anthropological development and reactions of human being, to be able to employ all the possibilities of language properly according to the requirements of time and place, to know the documentary proofs the past and to envisage the future one must go through the history of English literature. The use of language speaks about the personality of the speaker and the perfect use of language is acquired only through literature.

**Keywords :**

- Individual
- Thoughts
- Human experience

- Legacy
- Pivot
- Socio-Cultural perspective
- Interest
- Appreciation
- Explore
- Analyze
- Insight
- Modern Problem
- Psychology
- Fluency

---

**Corresponding Author**

**Dr. Sangeeta Sharma\***

Associate Professor, English, Government M.G. College, Udaipur