

ROLE OF LANGUAGES IN PROMOTING LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN INDIAN CONTEXT: A STUDY

Rakesh Khajuria

(Teacher, School Education Department, Srinagar)

ABSTRACT

“CULTURE IS COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNICATION IS CULTURE”

Culture can be explained in many ways. In the words of anthropologist E.B.Tylor, it is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society. Alternatively in a contemporary variant, “culture is defined as a social domain that emphasizes and discontinuities of social meaning of a life held in common”. The Sanskrit term for culture is sanskriti. Both Sanskrit and sanskriti are derived from sanskar, meaning ritual performance. Culture means the collaborative deposit the knowledge, experience, beliefs, values, attitudes, meanings, religion, roles, spatial relations, concepts of the universe, and material objects and possessions acquired by a group of people in the course of generation through individual and striving. It is a system of knowledge shared by a relatively larger group of people. Today, throughout the world, culture, language and literature have made their important place in the core of heart of every country; in its people culture, language and literature not only help in developing the qualities like discipline, punctuality, respect, co-operation, building up stamina but also help human beings to remain confident and conscious during the various cultural events, different cultural festivals and various language developments. For example Cultural events have many values and one of its values is the all- round development of the personality of the students. It introduces the students with culture of the other countries nation and states. In this paper author want to clarify various queries of people such as, what is literature and its relation to society? What is function of literature? What is society and does society require literature? There are a number of such questions that hit human mind. It is through such question and answer method that author aims at cinematographing a few aspects of culture, literature and society.

Keywords: *Indian Culture, Languages and Literature.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Language preservation is the effort to prevent languages from becoming unknown. A language is at risk of being lost when it no longer is taught to younger generations, while fluent speakers of the language (usually the

elderly) die. Language is an important part of any society, because it enables people to communicate and express themselves. When a language dies out, future generations lose a vital part of the culture that is necessary to completely understand it. This makes language a vulnerable aspect of cultural heritage, and it becomes especially important to preserve it. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), from facts published in their "Atlas of Languages in Danger of Disappearing," there are an estimated 6,000 languages spoken worldwide today, and half of the world's population speaks the eight most common. More than 3,000 languages are reportedly spoken by fewer than 10,000 people each.

Culture is certainly as important as teaching language and literature. Culture is one of the most important concepts in social sciences like Psychology, Political Science and Economics, which has now made inroads into applied linguistics and second language acquisition as well. Societal values, beliefs, cultural elements and attitudes should be incorporated into communicative approach to increase the effectiveness of learning. Inclusion of 'culture component' is motivational in learning second language. The main aim of language teaching is to enhance linguistic abilities of the learners along with cultural competence which can be together called as intercultural competence. In present day language classrooms, teachers are expected to include cultural components in teaching because of paradigm shift in language teaching with a different outlook on culture. This outlook which emerges from social sciences, defines 'culture' as a broad term that embraces in it many aspects of a society like arts, food, environment, customs and traditions, religious practices, ethics, morals and manners. Consequently, culture includes everything that man has either acquired or learnt in his individual and social life. Anthropologists like Ward H. Good enough believe that "Culture is an idealized cognitive system- a system of knowledge, beliefs, and values that exist in the minds of individual members of society"

II. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

No human society can exist without a culture of its own. Language and culture are inter-connected and are mutually dependent in social life and cultural competence is an essential aspect of second language acquisition. Since languages comprehensively reflect complex cultures of any society, the teaching of culture is regarded as an important part in second language teaching and learning process. Cultural awareness and learning the target culture will help in attaining proficiency in second language learning. No language can be understood and taught without understanding the cultural context in which it is used. Culture provides adequate and authentic materials and it also provides interesting practical situations in teaching learning process.

The major aim of any language teaching and learning is to enhance tolerance and better understanding of different cultures among the learners. There is an increasing need in incorporating cultural components in English as a second language textbook in the present as well as in the future because of globalization. The significance of teaching culture is also affirmed in the Common European Framework of Reference for language as there is a strong relationship between teaching and learning of English as a second language or English as a foreign language textbooks and culture. Claire Kramsch argues against those who regard cultural knowledge as 'an educational objective' in itself and is separate from language. She says if we regard language as a social

practice, culture becomes the core of language teaching. She further claims, "Culture awareness must be viewed both as enabling language proficiency and as being the outcome of reflection on language proficiency".

Language is a medium of communication. And literature is a written form of any matter in a particular language. Especially, the writings which come out of sheer knowledge on a particular theme or subject Literature, as many people think, doesn't concentrate only on language in which they are written. I mean, many people would have heard only the terms like "so and so is an English literature, Mr.X is a Telugu literature etc.", that gives an opinion that literature means they belong only to the languages but they do not in fact! Any research on any technical aspects like in Engineering or Biomedical or any other subject may also result in some literature outcome that can be published which generally the researchscholars include in their report in the name of "Literature review". But if a person is going to take a course on literature in any subject or if he is opting so & so language literature in any Central govt. Exams (in India), then he would be going through only artistic and socialistic literature aspects like novels, poetry, historical epics, drama and different classification of all those along with the linguistic progressive grammar.

Simply, any work that came out of research, analysis or creativity on any subject written in particular LANGUAGE is called to be a LITERATURE.

III. CONCLUSION

To conclude the paper we want to say that language plays a pivotal role in the promotion of literature and culture. And if there is no language there is no NATION. Some people believe that language mirrors culture, in the sense that people can see and understand a particular culture through its language. Yet, some others compare language and culture to an ice berg. The visible part is language, with a small part of culture and the greater part lying unseen is the invisible part of culture. Brown (2001, 165) describes the relation of the two as follows: "A language is a part of a culture and a culture is a part of a language; the two are intricately interwoven so that one cannot separate the two without losing the significance of either language or culture." In one word, culture and language and literature are inseparable.

SUGGESTIONS

- [1.] Every cultural activity should be taken in mother tongue.
- [2.] Celebrate all festival of every religion and every birth anniversary of great person on large scale. Only speech of teacher in not impressive. All program must be arrange by student. Language and cultural is very important in education
- [3.] We should develop inter linkages through languages of different cultures and states by developing interstate and inter cultural relationship through sports, cultural activities youth festivals and regional programmes.
- [4.] All the Universities should include foundation courses on cultural integration.
- [5.] By applying multi lingual's there must be inter-linkages between education, culture and language at all levels.

- [6.] Students at all levels must be encouraged for cultural exchange especially in
- [7.] Situations they belong to different language groups and regions.
- [8.] Monolingual to multilingual foundation on courses should be increased by universities.
- [9.] Language repositories should be started for the development of regional and national indological centres to preserve the languages of various regions.
- [10.] Indology Studies should be a part of the curriculum in every state.
- [11.] Exchange of ideas, thoughts, proverbs etc. helps a lot for cultural integration.
- [12.] It should be compulsory for all universities to have essential language departments.