



LITERATURE



UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN
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Candidate's Number (write very clearly)

800

Level of Study

ARTS

Faculty/College

PHILOSOPHY

Department/Course

PHILOSOPHY OF LITERATURE

Title of Paper

06-02-2024

Date

Examination (insert official title) of the Examination for which you have entered, as it appears at the head of the question paper

DIRECTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write on both sides of the pages (except in Mathematics)
- Begin each answer on a fresh page
- Write the number of each question at the top of each page
- All rough work must be crossed through and enclosed within this cover
- If supplementary books are used, they must be fastened together at the end of this book and inside the cover. Answers must not be written on the supplementary books unless all the leaves in this book have already been used
- In your own interest you should enter in the space provided below, the numbers of the questions which you have attempted (with sub-sections where necessary)
- In no circumstances must answer books used or unused, be removed from the Examination Room by a Candidate
- Candidates are warned that importance is attached by the examination to accuracy and clearness of expression
- Please note that there is severe penalty for cheating at any examination

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Question No.

Mark

1

$\frac{17}{20}$

2

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3

$\frac{16}{20}$

NUMBERS OF THE ANSWERS

In the order in which they have been written

1, 2, 3

All students of the University of Ibadan are expected to show academic integrity at all times. Understanding this, I solemnly declare that I shall not be involved in any malpractice including soliciting, giving, receiving or using unauthorized aid in this examination.

Signature of student

Total...

$\frac{48}{60}$

NUMBER ONE.

OUTLINE.

- Introduction
- The meaning of philosophy
- The meaning of literature
- The relationship between philosophy and literature
- Conclusion.

INTRODUCTION.

Philosophy and Literature are two disciplines that interrelate and enrich each other. From an ordinary perspective of these two disciplines, it would seem as if there is no relationship between them. However, there are various relationships between philosophy and literature and these relationships would be clearly examined as follows:

THE MEANING OF PHILOSOPHY.

Philosophy is etymologically derived from two Greek words, *philos* which means love or desire and *sophia* which means wisdom/knowledge. Hence philosophy is defined as the love of wisdom.

Philosophy has been defined by various philosophers and thinkers, however only one would be identified here. Philosophy is defined as a rational search for answers to questions that arise in the mind while reflecting on human experiences. Philosophy's major branches are

epistemology, ethics, metaphysics, anthropology and logic.

THE MEANING OF LITERATURE

Literature refers to any written work especially those considered to have artistic and intellectual value. It encompasses a wide range of creative and intellectual expressions including fiction, non fiction, prose, poetry, drama and essays.

Literature explores human experiences, emotions, thoughts and ideas. It provides a medium through which individuals share and express their perspectives of the world. It illuminates the characteristics of human experience, providing insight into ideas.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE

Philosophy and Literature are related in a multifaceted manner. They enrich and equip each other. One of the major relationships between philosophy and Literature is that both arise from human intellect. All philosophies and all literatures arise from the intellect. This is clearly seen in the philosopher or the author who makes use of his intellect to develop ideas and thoughts, that are now referred to as philosophy or Literature.

Also, both philosophy and Literature deal with fundamental human experiences. They arise from existential concerns. While Literature focuses on the social conditions of an environment, philosophy

focuses on the principles determines man reaction and interpretation of his environment.

Furthermore, the relationship between philosophy and literature is seen from the fact that philosophy relies on literature to be conveyed. Philosophy and its abstract ideas are communicated using literature. This would enable those ~~are~~ ideas to be communicated in a relatable form to the audience.

Both philosophy and literature makes use of modalities and style. While philosophy's styles are analytic and abstract, literature focuses on aesthetics, narrative and style. However in their style and models a synthesis that helps in the elaboration of ideas.

Philosophy and literature influence our worldview of the society. This is because both philosophy and literature provides tools for an individual to understand himself, his environment and the world at large. Also philosophy and literature encourage critical thinking and analysis which in turn enables one to make a synthesis of his worldview.

Finally, it is important to note that all written matter can stand as literature but not all written matter can stand as philosophy. Philosophy has to ^{be} analytical and addresses the principles of human society.

There are other way philosophy is related with literature that would be itemized as follows:-

1. All philosophies bothers on literature.
2. Philosophy depends on literature to express them
3. Both philosophy and literature arise from the human

intellect.

4. Both philosophy and literature make use of reason and language.

5. Philosophy and literature are form of knowledge (They are means through which knowledge can be transferred).

6. Philosophical ideas and literature arise from existential concerns.

7. All written matter can stand as literature but not all written matter can stand as philosophy.

8. Philosophy focuses on truth and beauty of a thing whereas literature deals with truth, sentiments and emotions without having to explain its principles.

9. Philosophy and literature makes use of styles and modalities.

10. Both philosophy and literature influence our worldview.

11. Both as well describes human experiences.

CONCLUSION

From the above carefully identified relationship, we can justify that literature relates with philosophy and that the two disciplines, unique in their own sphere, interpolate and enrich each other.

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NUMBER TWO.

OUTLINE.

- Introduction
- The meaning of fiction
- The meaning of truth
- How we can derive truth from fiction.
- Conclusion.

INTRODUCTION

When people write or tell stories, sometimes these stories arise from events that never happened. This means that such stories are product of the imagination of the individual who tells them. However, certain questions arise, which are, Can these stories contain truth? and how can we arrive at truth in such fictitious stories. The response to these questions would be explained thus.

THE MEANING OF FICTION.

Fiction is a deliberately fabricated account of something. It is any literary work that is based on the imagination of the author. Fiction can also be defined as a literary work that is forged. It may pass across truth but it did not necessarily necessarily happen as a true event.

THE MEANING OF TRUTH.

Truth is a fact or reality. It is said to be a statement that has been proven to be true beyond any reasonable

doubt. Truth is arrived at through verification, but there are truths that cannot be verified such as God and divinity. Truth is central in ^{the} study of philosophy and it is built around theories such as coherence theory, correspondence theory and pragmatic theory.

HOW WE CAN DERIVE TRUTH FROM FICTION

In order to derive truth from fiction, it is important to look at the fiction to see if it gives a substantial depth as to be able to capture the aspects of human nature, human behaviour, questions on morality and the foundations of ethics, insight into metaphysics, cosmology and worldview as well as the origin of the world and man's sense of meaning. It is to the extent that a fiction captures these things that ~~it~~ determines how compelling its truth value can be.

There are two forms of writings through which we can demonstrate how truth is arrived at in a fiction. They are:- 1) The Bible

2) Sacred Writings

(1) THE BIBLE

There are some stories in the bible which are told and they did not happen as truth events. They were told majorly for its didactic purposes. However, one should note that it is not all the stories in the bible that are fictions. Hence we would analyse a few of these stories and see how truth can be arrived at through them.

THE STORY OF JOB.

The story of Job tells about the life of a man Job. He was a friend of God, but God allowed him to pass through trials in order to test his fidelity. Job as he was going through this trials did not lose his faith in God, but remained steadfast. From this story we derive the truth that our relationship with God does not mean we would not suffer. Also virtues such as faith, trust, hope, steadfastness and fidelity are truths that can be derived from this story.

THE STORY OF JONAH.

This is another Biblical fictitious story that tells how Jonah was swallowed in the belly of a fish as he tried to escape from doing the instruction of God. From this story God is shown as being merciful and Just. He has the face of both justice and mercy. Thus he showed both to Jonah and the people of Nineveh to whom the message was sent to. We derive truths of mercy, justice and repentance from this story.

CAIN AND ABEL

This is another fictitious story in the bible. It tells how Cain killed his brother Abel out of envy and insecurity. He was punished by God. Hence truth that can be derived are the devastating influence of envy and jealousy which are wicked acts against fellow human beings.

(2) SECULAR WRITINGS.

This is the domain of fiction. It can be in the form

of prose, poetry, drama and essay. However, we still ask if truth can be derived from them. Some secular writings would be used as example to show how truth is derived from fiction.

HALF OF A YELLOW SUN {By Chimamanda Adichie}

This is a fictitious story that tells how about the Nigerian civil war between the Nigerians and the Biafrans. It depicts in an imaginative form the devastating effects of war on a country and its citizens. From this story we can derive the truth of pain and suffering that are outcomes of war.

THINGS FALL APART {By Chinua Achebe}

This tells the story of the cultural and traditional life of the Igbo man and as well as the influence of the white man. It made emphasis on the life of the main character Okonkwo a renowned man on the land and how fate was most unfavourable to him. From this story we can derive the influence of fate, will, determinism and bravery on the life of an individual.

CONCLUSION:

We have carefully demonstrated how truth can be derived from fiction, and how man can learn and appropriate this truth value in other situations.

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NUMBER THREE

OUTLINE

- Introduction
- The meaning of fiction
- The meaning of Morality
- How Fiction is related with morality
- Conclusion.

INTRODUCTION

Whether fiction relates to morality or not is a debatable question. However, I think there are ways through which we can show this relationship between morality and fiction. These ways of relationship would be addressed carefully.

THE MEANING OF FICTION

Fiction can be defined as an imaginative work of an author. It is a deliberately fabricated account of something. It is any form of writing that is based on the imagination of the author.

It is defined as forged literary work. It can pass across truth but does not mean that it happened as a true event.

THE MEANING OF MORALITY

Morality refers to the goodness or badness of an action. Actions which are good and right are considered to be moral, while actions which are bad are considered to be immoral.

Morality also concerns with why certain actions are

are considered to be right while others are considered to be wrong. It is a major issue in the study of philosophy.

HOW FICTION IS RELATED WITH MORALITY

There are three ways through which morality is related and derived or arrived at from fiction. These are:-

1.) By reviewing the characters in a play, drama, novel and making moral judgement about the character.

When we review a character in a novel, play, drama and prose by analysing their action, we are in fact making a moral judgement which creates the feelings such as justice, kindness or hatred.

If a character in a novel is reviewed as being either a villain, a brave man or courageous man it is a moral judgement on that character.

For instance, the character of Cain and Abel in the Genesis story of Cain and Abel. Cain is reviewed as being a villain because he killed his brother Abel out of envy. His character and actions are considered by many as repugnant.

Fiction has a moral grip on us and cause us to make moral judgement regarding the character that is unfolding in the plot of a story.

2.) Looking Beyond Specific Characters to see if we can arrive at principles of action and morality, that can be in a general sense.

This has to do with the moral judgement of a chara-

-cter in a play or novel, already received as ~~an~~ either praiseworthy or condemnable and see if can be made into a moral theory, that is if it can be universalized. (A kind of philosophical generalization and abstraction). Hence moral judgement moves from subjectivity to objectivity.

By this we move from applying the moral judgement derived the character to ourselves and see if we can make a standard that can be generalised. For instance, the in the story of Cain, we can make a moral theory of envy. Then we move from applying it to ourselves and then make a standard for general purpose.

3. This is the stage where we make creative conclusions concerning about the moral judgement derived.

For instance taking the action of ~~my~~ envy, we ask questions like 'is envy willful?' or does it just happen? Is it within the power of man not to be envious?

By asking these questions we make attempt to come to conclusions about moral judgement and how man can react to it.

CONCLUSION.

From these three principles elaborated here, it shows how morality is related with fiction and how we can arrive at morality in fictitious works. A good understanding^{ing} of these three ways would show how morality is contained and related with fiction.

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