

Symbolism

(Late 19th Century)
(France)

- Something that represents any idea is called symbol.
- There are two ways or types of language.

1- Literal language

2- Figurative language

- Literal Language:- (Literary devices)

It is used in:-

- Everyday conversation
- Scientific articles
- Technical paragraphs or essays.

- Figurative Language:-

- Simile
- Personification
- Metaphor
- Symbol etc.

- **Simile** → A simile is a figure of speech that compares two unlike ^{things} using "like" or "as".

Example:- Her smile was as bright as the sun.

→ **Metaphor** → A metaphor is a figure of speech that directly equates one thing to another by stating that it is another.
Example:- "Time is a thief."

→ **Personification** → It is a figure of speech in which human qualities or characteristics are attributed to non-human entities or objects. Example:- "The wind whispered through the trees."

→ **Symbol** → A symbol is a person, object, action or idea that represents something beyond its literal meaning.

Example:- In literature, a dove often symbolizes peace.

→ Symbol is something that stands for something else, often representing an abstract idea.

→ Symbols are related to their

situation and condition

→ Symbols are used to convey abstract meanings.

⇒ **Beauty** is just a concept, an abstract idea according to our thoughts.

→ Charles Baudelaire was the one who started this movement through his writings (poems) in France (Europe).

→ He was influenced by Edgar Allen Poe, the American writer.

→ This movement was influenced by Romanticism.

→ It focuses on emotional and spiritual aspects of life.

→ There is expression of inner life (subjectivity).

→ Symbolism is against realism and naturalism.

→ This movement shares some

common traits with Romanticism.

- Symbolism is also a feature or element of a movement Modernism.
- It becomes a bridge between Realism and Modernism
- There is expression of inner feelings and thoughts but in a different way not like Romanticism.

Characteristics of Symbolism:

- Use of symbols.
- Subjectivity → Expression of inner self reference not directly stated.
- Emphasis on suggestion
- Dream like quality
- Emphasis on inner life.
- Rejection of Realism
- Experimentation with language
- Use of Metaphor and allegory
- Interest in the mysteries

and unknowns.

→ **Allegory** is a story having double meaning.

Prominent Writers of Symbolism

→ Charles Baudelaire

→ Aleksandr Blok

→ Maurice Maeterlinck