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Criticism

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DECLARATION

I undersigned **Miss. Nilofar Mulla** hereby declare that the project report entitled "**Criticism**" is my original work and we assure that the contents in the same has not been copied from any other project Report submitted to Department of English, Shivanand College, Kagwad.

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Criticism

Etimologically the word criticirm is derived from the Greek worde Judgement and hence criticism is the exercise of judgment, literary criticism is the exercise of judgment on works of literature. Criticism is the play of the mind on a work of literature. It is to find out excellence and defects of work af art. It is to evalure its artistic worth. It consists in asking and answering rational question about literature. Such an enqueiy may be directed either towqrd literature in general leading to a better understanding of the nature and value of literature. It is a better appreciation of the pleasure proper to literature An enquiry on work of art helps us to know its ability with social and many persepective. The process of literary creation is examines and made in litelligible.

The inquiry may be directed tiword particular work of literature. In inquiry its individual and distinctive qualities may be examined the matter, the manner, the technique and language of a piece of literature may be put to searching and examining. With this way certain rules are tested and examined, with reference to mimilar works of literature. Thus, the reader will form a better idea of literary merit By this way providing merits and fecilities to the writer. Thus the function of criticism is not fault finding, as it is supposed to be by the layman. It is impartial and indiscriminate path of valuating work of art. A critic is not a fault finder. He survey's writing skill and ability of writer.e is also a reader unlike other readers. Criticism is the science of forming and expressing correct judgment upon the value and merit of works of literature. It is only through criticism that intelligent appreciation and clear understanding becomes possible.

Defintions : 1) Critiasm is a published analy sis of the qualities and characteristics an a work of literature and fine art-Edmand Gosse

2) Critiasm is the art of estimating the quality and character of a work of art, and the function or work of a cric_____ New English Dictionary

3) Criticirm buises itself,with the Goodness or badness the success or illsuccess of literature from the purely point

4)The true critic will dwell on excellencies rather than imperfections_____ Addison.

STANDARDS OF JUDGEMENT

Introduction :

Criticism generally means is to evaluate a work of asking & answering rational question about literature. Such an enquiry may be directed either towards literature in general leading to better understanding of the nature and value of literature. It would also mean on better pronouncing on work of art.

1. **Pre mature Criticism :** To give judgement on work of literature on the basis of certain rules was fixed from the earlier critics. Ancient Greek and Latin masters especially Aristotle and Horace derived many number of rules and often wrongly derived. All through the classical era such judicial Criticism mastered.
2. **Dr. Johnson** may be regarded as the most powerful exponent of this kind of Criticism. He approached poets and their works the spirit of hanging judge. He pronounced judgement in a dogmatic & majestically manner. Works were not considered on their own individual & distinctive merits. Writers were not assessed on the basis of their performance. Obviously, no real evaluation is possible in this way.
3. **Ben Johnson and Addison :** these critics illustrate Evaluators position of the critic as judge. Addison set himself to finding the beauties essential to an epic poem. In *paradise Lost* Milton in the light of the rules of epic poetry which Aristotle had laid down. Here we may compare the great critics policy and different methods of examining poetry. They are classics and the work is also classic.
4. **Aristotelian Critics rules :** Couldn't be fulfilled in other such work like *paradise lost* of Milton. Because in this poem it does not end happily, but, It goes not as per Aristotelian rules of epic. So, is it to consider an epic or not a question before judge. Even in ancient epic the *Aeneid* which was written hundreds of years after his death, he would have enlarged his rules.
5. **Dryden :** Dryden puts in his words the difference of Greeks would not satisfy an English audience". All the rules of judgement we take into consideration Aristotle, Shakespeare, Dr Johnson all they pronounce different.

- 5) Criticism is the play of the mind on the aesthetic qualities of literature having for its object an interpretation of literary values. I.A. Richards.
- 6) Criticism is the interpretation, comment and exposition of works of art by means of written words. T.S. Eliot
- 7) The end of criticism is the elucidation of works of art and the correction of taste. T.S. Eliot
- 8) To set up as a critic is to set up as a judge of value. I.A. Richards.
- 9) To feel the virtue of the poet. Or the poet to disengage it, to set it forth are the three stages of the critic's duty. Walter Pater.

Functions of Criticism

According to Professor G. Basappa, "Criticism has two different functions : Interpretation and judgement. Yet they are generally not separated when work is under evaluation. Interpretation is considered by the majority of critics as a means to the end. A close examination of judged.

Some chiefest meaning to reveal function of criticism is the function of criticism is not fault finding as is supposed to be by the layman its function is not to pick holes in a given work of literature.

Rather Criticism is the science of forming and expressing correct judgement upon the values and merit of works of literature. It is only through criticism that intelligent appreciation and clear understanding becomes possible.

Views regarding the functions of criticism and the role of critics have kept on changing through the ages. Every age has tended to assign a different function or functions to criticism. The earliest systematic critic Plato, for example, was concerned with the problem of defining the utility of poetry in the educational system of his ideal state. He thought about use of poets and poetry he banished them from his ideal state. But later his student Aristotle appreciated poets and poetry. He praised the superiority of poetry over philosophy. Sir Philip Sidney defended poetry in support of Aristotle.

Rules to Writers- Critics from the earliest times have also thought that the chief business of criticism was to teach the writer how to write effectively. The general statements of Aristotle and Horace were narrowed down to didactic rules and writers were advised to

follow them strictly even the Augustans were of the view that the chief end of criticism was to teach rules and regulation. It is for the guidance of writer. And then to judge work on the basis of these rules. Pope admirably sums up the classical view of criticism and advises to lead them for the chiefest delight and good writing.

Literary criticism is an inquiry of ability and performance of work of art. It is the play of mind on a work of literature such as inquiry either directed towards general leading of literature or its value and nature of literature. Though such an inquiry hoping to think rightly about literature in this way a theory of literature and the process of literary creation is examined.

Aesthetic : The romantic conception of criticism and the contemporary individual critic finally spoke of aesthetic function. A radical change is a realization of chief function of criticism is aesthetic. It is to promote appreciation and enjoyment of literature. The critic is a man of taste, he himself enjoys what he reads. He tries to convey his own aesthetic pleasure to his readers. Highest criticism is the expression of the personal impression of an exceptionally gifted and sensitive individual. Aesthetic pleasure, joy in criticism.

TYPES OF CRITICISM

There are various types of criticism that have flourished from time. Types of criticism are based on the different lines of exposition the critics takes to. How to read, what the study and getting complete inspection of the book is possible only by disengaging of work of art or the process of criticism which finds out of criticism. Prof.M.G.BHATE, in his literature and literary criticism lists no fewer than fifteen types of criticism: Textual,Rhetorical,classical,NeoClassical,Romantic,Judicial, Impressionistic,Technical, Formal,Biographical,Sociological

Marxist, Psychological, Didactic,, Aesthetic and Evaluative. According to G. Wilbur scott: The Five Approaches of literary criticism viz. Archetpal, Basically, There are only tthree or four types of criticism: 1. Legislative, 2. Theoretical, 3. Juducial, and 4. Descriptive. Apart from the above said of two different sets of criticism we have more :-

1. Legislative criticism : is addressed to the writer rather than to readers. It claims to teach poets how to write or how to write better. It was the standard kind of criticism practiced by the Elizabethans. It consists of rules and formula, According to which a work of Puttenham, Compion, Danial & Gascoigne are read like critical discussed.
2. Theoretical criticism : It is refered to any kind of judgement in literature, Sometimes along with poets themselves explain and give necessary literary material to the reader. Critic does not surpace, because that beauty of art ot the principles of art may be a matter for assumption. It is stated that onl;y he who has a theoretical grounding would be the perfect critic. His concerned is with the finished product. He uses very sensible mind. The kind of criticism deals eith literary aesthetics

3. **Evaluative criticism :** Evaluative criticism is criticism which is concerned with the assessment of the worth significance of a work of art. The work concerned is examined with reference to standards which may be aesthetic, moral or purely personal. Thus an attempt is made to estimate its place and importance. T.S. Eliot considers moral and ethical standards as necessary to determine the greatness of a work of literature. Which (This greatness) cannot be determined merely by literary standards. The same standards are also applied to works of a similar nature & so the place of a particular work in literary hierarchy is determined.
4. **Historical criticism :** Historical criticism views a work of art against the background of the age in which it was written. Every writer is influenced by the age in which he lives. His work cannot be properly be estimated without an understanding of the social, economic, religious, political & literary events. Even the trend influence writer. Thus it is texture of great writers period reflected in their work. Shakespeare cannot be understood without his social & economical condition of the age.

Historical criticism examines a work with reference to social milieu. It relates the writer to his age & thus seeks to account for his short comings & excellences. Thus the knowledge of Shakespeare theatre & the nature of his audience enable us to judge his art & genius in the right perspective. Thus it is clear that the age history is there in a writer's work is judged.

5. **Biographical criticism :** Closely akin to Historical criticism is Biographical criticism seeks to evaluate a work on the basis of the facts of the life of its author. A detailed study is made of his family background, ancestry, personal circumstances, friend, profession, occupation etc. In this way study of writer's characters, ideas & beliefs is possible. All this biographical knowledge is then used to explain the artistic peculiarity of his works. There are great danger of biographical criticism is that preoccupies with his biographical concern. The critic may go into too many details & forget his primary objective. I.S. Eliot famous theory of the impersonality of poetry is a warning against pitfalls of Biographical criticism.
6. **Comparative criticism :** Comparative criticism is Comparative criticism which seeks to evaluate a work by comparing it with

other languages. This method is foreshadowed on the criticism of Dryden but, Arnold was first powerful to advocate & as an exponent. He asserted. He asserted that the critic must know the best that has been thought, both in ancient & in modern times, passages, extracts, quotation from different works of art are compared. A critic requires to acquire a thorough knowledge not any of any one literature but of a number of literature & the larger the number the better genius of temperament differ from people to people age to age. Such differences must be fully taken into account while applying the comparative method, More over comparison must be made between works of the same type & genre. Within these limitations. A comparative study of literature can be made.

7. **Descriptive Criticism :** Descriptive Criticism is the analysis of existing literary works of their aims, method & effects. It is the most popular & bulk of English Criticism. Its most powerful exponent have been the poets themselves have analysed their own creation with a view to explaining their own aims & methods. As George Watson point out "descriptive Criticism begins in self justification with poets discussing their own work & defending them against hostile attacks is Dryden has done in his innumerable prefaces". His essay on dramatic poesy provides the earliest example of descriptive Criticism.

*Aristotle theoretical critic. A descriptive like Dryden says "this is how I have tried to write my play why". Descriptive Criticism always about some particular text whether of the critics own or of another.

8. **Impressionistic Criticism :** Impressionistic Criticism is merely to record. Anatole France calls, " the adventure of the soul among the masterpieces." Impressionistic Criticism is the record of personal responses. It is record of the critics own appreciation of aesthetic beauty. The critic does not call it good or bad. Critics purpose here is rather to convey his own enjoyment of it his readers. Walter Pater & other English aesthetes are impressionistic in their critics. Impressionistic Criticism tends to be imbalanced & erratic. In this way, they sought to discipline & regulate impressionism. Impressionism is not of day, it is of past.

9. Textual or Ontological Criticism : In modern age there are a number of trends in or approaches to Criticism. First & the most important is the textual. For the ontological critic the text under is consideration. It is a kind of path finding job by way of careful editing, giving variant reading & possible interpretation. It may also contains footnotes & glossary of technical words & may be a critical introduction. The critic, at this level does not go by the professional name as such. He leads the reader, mostly uninitiated, by the hand all the way through the text offering all sorts of aids & crutches on the way. The critics is only a modest 'editor.' Textual Criticism is a scholarly job performed mostly by academic critics. It invaluable help to the readers, because, of the text is old & the language is unintelligible to the ordinary readers.
10. Judicial Criticism : it believes that the laws of literature are like the laws of state or moral laws and therefore are binding on the artist. They are set by some authority.

Conclusion

Criticism is the practice of judging the merits and faults of something. The judger is called a critic. One specific item of criticism is called a criticism. Criticism is an evaluative or corrective exercise that can occur in any area of human life. Criticism can therefore take many different forms.

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