

NKR GOVT ARTS CLLEGE FOR WOMEN, NAMAKKAL.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

II BA ENGLISH

LITERARY FORMS AND CRITICISM

SEMESTER III

E- CONTENT UNIT-I

## 1. THE LYRIC

Lyric is a Greek origin. It is an expression of a single emotion and a musical composition. The minstrel's harp or lyre formed an external accompaniment to a lyric.

### THE SUBJECT- MATTER OF THE LYRIC

The lyric gives expression to a single emotion or feeling. It appeals more to the heart to the intellect. As a subjective poem it expresses the poet's emotion.

### THE STRUCTURE OF THE LYRIC

The lyric can be divided into three distinct parts. The first part states the emotion or the subject which has set the poet's imagination working. The second part consists of the thoughts suggested by the emotion. The third part comprises the poet's return to his initial mood, the mood of reason.

## 2. THE ODE

The ode is of Greek origin. It is a serious and dignified composition. It is often in the form of an address. It is exalted in subject – matter, and elevated in tone and style. The poet is serious both in the choice of his subject and in the manner of its presentation.

It is often addressed directly to the being or object it treats of. Examples Shelley's "Ode to the West Wind" and Keats's "Ode on a Grecian Urn".

### THE DORIAN OR PINDARIC ODE

The Greek Ode had two forms: The Dorian Ode is so called from the district and dialect in which it arose. The Lesbian Ode named after the island of Lesbos, consisted of three parts: the Strophe, the Antistrophe and the Epode.

The Dorian Ode was choric and was sung to the accompaniment of a dance. It consisted of three parts: the stanza-form known as the Strophe, during the recitation of which the dancers made a turn from the right to the left.

Antistrophe, during the recitation of which the dancers made a counter-turn from the left to the right. Epode, during the recitation of which the dancers stood still. The Dorian form is known as the Pindaric Ode, formed by the ancient Greek poet Pindar.

### THE LESBIAN OR HORATION ODE

The Lesbian Ode was simpler in form. The treatment is direct and dignified, the thought clearly developed, the style is sober and stately it was popularized in Latin by two great Roman writers, Horace and Catullus. The works of Horace in particular served as a model to English imitators of the form, and English Odes of this type are commonly known as Horatian Odes.

## 3. THE SONNET

Sonnet is particularly associated with the name of the great Italian poet Petrarch. It was originally a short poem. The word "sonnet" being a derivative of the Italian "sonetto" meaning a little



sound or strain.

It is a short poem of fourteen lines, expressing one single thought or feeling. It is composed of two parts – the *octave*, a stanza of eight lines, (a b b a, a b b a ) and the *sestet*, (c d e, c d e ) a stanza of six.

#### THE ENGLISH SONNET

The Sonnet was introduced into England in the first half of 16<sup>th</sup> c by Sir Thomas Wyatt and Howard, Earl of Surrey, two English politicians. Surrey in particular, adopted a rhyme-scheme widely different from that of Italian model.

He wrote his sonnet in three quatrains, in alternative rhyme, followed by a concluding couplet: a b a b, c d c d, e f e f, g g a form so splendidly used by Shakespeare.

#### THE SPENSERIAN VARIETY

Spenser has evolved a new variety, each of the quatrains linked to the other by an intermixture of the rhymes in the following manner: a b a b, b c b c, c d c d, e e.

#### 4. THE ELEGY

It is a Greek origin. The term Elegy covered a wide range of subjects like war songs, love poems, political verses, lamentation for dead (both grave and gay). It was written in the elegiac measure, a couplet composed of a dactylic hexameter followed by dactylic pentameter.

In modern usage Elegy takes its name from its subject-matter, not from its form. The theme of an Elegy must be mournful or sadly reflective. It may be inspired by other sombre themes, such as unrequited love, the fall of a famous city. It is written as a tribute to something loved and lost.

The formal Elegy usually aims at an effect of dignity and solemnity without a sense of strain or artificiality. Example Gracy's "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"

#### THE PASTORAL ELEGY

During the Renaissance a new kind of Elegy was introduced into English poetry. It followed a convention by which the poet represented himself as a shepherd bewailing the loss of a companion. The manner of speech and the setting were rustic. Example, Milton's Lycidas.

#### 5. THE EPIC

The classic examples of the Epic in European Literature are the Iliad the Odyssey served as models to all later Epic poets. It is a long tale in verse. The supernatural and magical element is always prominent. The language of the poem is noble and exalted.

##### Convention of the Epic

The theme of the Epic is stated in the first few lines, accompanied by a prayer to the Muse. The statement of the theme is technically called the "proposition" and the prayer the "invocation." Example Milton's Paradise Lost.

The Epic employs certain conventional poetic devices such as the Homeric Epithet and the Homeric Simile. Homeric Epithet- a term or phrase sometimes quite lengthy, applied again and again to a particular person, place, or thing.

Homeric Simile – to make comparison between two similar objects develops into a piece of elaborate description to capture the reader's imagination.

The action of the Epic is often controlled by supernatural agents like classical gods and goddesses. It contains a number of episodes. It usually divided into twelve books.

Epic of Growth and Epic of Art



An Epic is either a result of natural growth in popular song and story or of conscious literary effort on the part of the artist. Epic of Growth / Folk Epic examples, Iliad by Homer and English Beowulf. Examples for Literary Epic, Virgil's Aeneid and Spenser's Faerie Queene.

Mock Epic

A parody of the Epic form. In this a theme obviously unworthy of the serious Epic. The jest lies in the resulting incongruity between theme and treatment. Example Pope's The Rape of the Lock.

## 6. THE BALLAD

The Ballad arises out of folk literature. originally it was sung from village to village to the accompaniment of a harp or a fiddle. Etymologically it means a dancing sing. It is a short story in verse. It is impersonal in treatment. It often has a refrain from stanza to stanza.

Kinds of Ballad

The Ballads are primarily two kinds: the Ballad of Growth of Authentic Ballad and the Ballad of Art or the literary Ballad.

Mock Ballad

It has a comic theme which is treated with the seriousness appropriate to a ballad. Example William Maginn's "The Rime of the Ancient."



## UNIT II

### 1. TRAGEDY AND COMEDY

From the earliest times drama has been divided into two kinds. 1. Tragedy 2. Comedy. Tragedy dealing with the dark side of life and comedy with its light side. Tragedy in Greek drama dealt with the fate of characters of high birth and station, kings, princes and their house hold. Comedy dealt with people of less important.

