

Module 1: Introduction to Prose

Etymology – Prose varieties –Fiction/Short Story/Tales -Autobiography/Biography -Newspaper/Journal Articles -Philosophical/Scientific Essays –Travelogues –Speech. Functions of prose. Evolution of Prose - Early translations- King Alfred- the Anglo Saxon Chronicle- homilies- bible translations-secular prose-Morte D'arthur- Elizabethan prose-tracts, pamphlets and treatises- eighteenth century prose – Victorian and modern prose.

- Essay – formal/impersonal essay and informal/personal essay
- Types of formal essays: periodical essay, critical essay
- Personal essays /Life Writing: biography, autobiography, memoir and diaries.

Module 2:Reflections and speeches

1. Francis Bacon : Of Studies
2. Charles Lamb : Dream Children :A Reverie.
3. G. K Chesterton : On Running After One's Hat
4. Albert Camus : Nobel Acceptance Speech
5. Arundhati Roy : Come September
6. Pico Iyer : In Praise of the Humble Comma
(Biography/Autobiography/Memoir)
7. Chinua Achebe : The Education of a British Protected Child(extract from the text.)
8. Marcel Junod : The First Atom Bomb. (extract from Warrior Without Weapons, translated by Edward Fitzgerald.)
9. Usha Jesudasan : Justice vs Mercy

READING LIST:

CORE TEXT: A text containing the above lessons will be made available

FURTHER READING:

- A Concise Companion to Literary Forms*. Emerald, 2013.(Chapter IV)
Dr. Takashi Nagai : *Letter from Nagasaki* & Dr. Tamiki Hara : *Letter from Hiroshima*
Doris Lessing: *On not winning the Nobel Prize* (Nobel Lecture, December 7,2007)
Bertrand Russell: *Ideas that have helped mankind*.
Marilynne Robinson : *When I Was a Child*
Thomas de Quincey : *The Literature of Knowledge and The Literature of Power*
J.B Priestley : *On Doing Nothing*
Robert Lynd : *On Forgetting*
AG. Gardiner : *On Living Again*

Appreciating Prose

Prose is a form of language that has no formal metrical structure. It applies a natural flow of speech, and ordinary grammatical structure, rather than rhythmic structure, such as in the case of traditional Poetry.

Prose comes from the Latin word "prosa oratio" meaning "straightforward". (Etymology means the study of the origin and history of words)

Prose Varieties

① Fiction or Novel

Fiction is a narrative form, consisting of people, events, or places that are imaginary - in other words, not based strictly on history or fact.

e.g., Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, depicting the fictional protagonist, Alice, playing a fantastical game of croquet (game)

② Short Story

A short story is a story with a fully developed theme but significantly shorter and less elaborate than a novel.

e.g., Cinderella by Charles Perrault.
"The Tortoise and the Hare" by Aesop
(from Aesop's fables)

③ Autobiography

An autobiography is a self-written account of the life of oneself (1st person point of view)

e.g., Fire of Wings by APJ Abdul Kalam.
The Story of My Experiments with Truth by Gandhi

④ Biography

A biography is an account of someone's life written by someone else.

⑤ Newspaper

Newspaper is a printed publication usually issued daily or weekly consisting of folded unstapled sheets and containing news, articles, advertisements and correspondence.

⑥ Journal

A journal is a magazine, especially one that deals with a specialized subject.

⑦ Article

An article is a piece of writing on a particular subject in a newspaper or magazine, or on the internet.

⑧ Scientific Essay

It is type of essay. It refers to writing that reports scientific observations and results in a specific manner.

9) Philosophical Essay

It refers to writing that describes philosophical ideas and thoughts in a specified manner.

10) Travelogues

A travelogue is a piece of writing about travel. It is written in a style that is both interesting and informative.

11) Speeches

A speech is a spoken communication or expression of thought in prose addressed to an audience. It presents the personal viewpoint of the speaker in a convincing manner, on a subject.

e.g.; Speech of Abraham Lincoln
Speech of Malala Yousafzai.

Functions of Prose.

- Prose is used when the writer wants to tell a story in a straightforward manner.
- It should be used when the writer wants their writing to resemble everyday speech.
- to express or convey writer's ideas and thoughts.
- to evaluate or criticise or respond to
- to get information of various kinds of activities, Person, place etc.
- to enjoy the readers.

Essay

Essay is derived from the French word Essayer, which means "to attempt" or "to try".

An essay is a short form of literary composition based on a single subject matter, and often gives the personal opinion of the author.

The Oxford Dictionary describes it as "a short piece of writing on a particular subject."

In simple words, we can define it as a scholarly work in writing that provides the author's personal argument.

Formal Essays and Informal Essays

Essays have traditionally been sub-classified as formal and informal.

Formal Essays or impersonal essays are characterized by serious purpose, dignity, logical organization, length.

Informal Essays or personal essays are characterized by the personal element such as self-revelation, individual tastes and experiences, humor, graceful style, rambling structure, unconventionality or novelty of theme etc.



Essay

Types of Formal Essays.

① Periodical Essay

A periodical essay is a type of essay that is issued on a regular basis as a part of a series in editions such as journals, magazines, newspapers published daily, weekly, monthly etc.

The 18th Century is considered the great age of the periodical essay in English. Notable periodical essayists of the 18th century include Joseph Addison, Richard Steele, Samuel Johnson and Oliver Goldsmith.

e.g. The Tatler
The Spectator

② Critical Essay

A critical essay is a form of academic writing that analyzes, interprets, and evaluates a text. In a critical essay, an author makes a claim about how particular ideas or themes are conveyed in a text, then supports that claim with evidence from primary or secondary sources.

In a casual conversation, we often associate the word "critical" with a negative perspective. However, in the context of a critical essay, the word "critical" simply means discerning and analytical. Critical essays analyze and evaluate the meaning and significance

of a text, rather than making a judgement about its content or quality.

Types of Informal Essays

- ① Biography
- ② Autobiography
- ③ Memoir

A memoir is a collection of memories that an individual writes about moments or events both public or private, that took place in the subject's / person's life. The word memoir is derived from the French word 'memoire' meaning 'memory'. The author of a memoir may be referred to as a memoirist.

④ Diaries

A diary is a book in which you record your thoughts or feelings or what has happened each day.
e.g., Anne Frank's Diary.

Difference between Autobiography / Biography and Memoir

A biography or autobiography tells the story "of a life", while a memoir often tells a story "from a life", such as touchstone events and turning points from the author's life.

