

DICTIONARIES USED IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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Annotation

This article discusses the role of vocabulary and stylistic language—often referred to as “literary dictionaries” or vocabularies—in English literature. It emphasizes how word choice enhances emotional depth, imagery, and stylistic expression in literary texts. The article explores the use of metaphors, symbolism, and personification, and highlights how historical and cultural contexts have shaped literary vocabulary over time. From the Renaissance to the Victorian era, and into modern literature, authors have used language creatively to reflect characters, themes, and societal changes. It also notes the evolution of vocabulary in modern literature, influenced by technology and global culture. The article concludes by emphasizing that the vocabulary in literary works is purposefully chosen to connect deeply with readers and express complex ideas.

Keywords

English literature, literary vocabulary, stylistic devices, metaphor, symbolism, personification, historical context, cultural influence, Renaissance literature, Victorian literature, modern literary language, character development, emotional impact, literary style, vocabulary evolution

English literature, over the centuries, has distinguished itself with its rich and diverse vocabulary. The dictionaries used in literature not only deepen the meaning of a text but also enrich the emotional and intellectual experience of the reader or listener. The vocabulary used in literary works is often based on various stylistic, historical, and cultural contexts, and it changes over time. In this article, we will explore the dictionaries commonly used in English literature and their role in enhancing the literary experience.

1. Literary Vocabulary: Stylistic and Emotional Role

Literary vocabulary is a set of words and phrases frequently used in literary works, which help define the overall style of the work. The vocabulary in literary texts serves two main purposes:

- **Emotional Impact:** Literary vocabulary is used to evoke emotions, stir feelings, and add depth to the text. For example, poets and writers use vivid and powerful words to create a more detailed emotional response from the reader.
- **Enhancing Imagery:** With the help of literary words and imagery, the writer brings the text to life, making the events and characters more vivid and relatable.

For example, **William Shakespeare** used a vast array of words and phrases in his plays and sonnets. In his famous work "**Hamlet**," the imagery and words used to describe death provide deep philosophical meanings and make the text more impactful.

2. Stylistic Features: Metaphor, Symbolism, and Personification

In English literature, several stylistic devices and vocabulary choices help the writer communicate deeper meanings to the reader. These devices include:

- **Metaphor:** This involves comparing one thing to another to create a more vivid image. For example, the phrase "The world's a stage" (from Shakespeare) conveys the idea of the world as a theatrical performance.
- **Symbolism:** Specific images or objects are used to represent abstract ideas. For example, in "**The Great Gatsby**" by F. Scott Fitzgerald, the green light symbolizes hope and unattainable dreams.
- **Personification:** This device gives human characteristics to non-human entities. For example, "The Wind Whispered" gives the wind human-like qualities, emphasizing its presence in a poetic way.

3. Historical and Cultural Influences

The vocabulary used in English literature often reflects the historical and cultural context of its time. Changes in literary vocabulary are particularly noticeable when the language has evolved, shaped by significant historical events. The vocabulary in literary works often mirrors the social, political, and cultural realities of the time.

- **The Renaissance Period:** During this period, English literature was influenced by classical Greek and Latin texts. Latin and Greek vocabulary became more prevalent in English during this time. Writers like **Christopher Marlowe** and **William Shakespeare** incorporated many Latin and Greek words in their works.
- **Victorian Era:** In this period, moral and ethical vocabulary played an important role in literature. Writers such as **Charles Dickens** and **George Eliot** used language to address social inequalities and the moral challenges of the time.

4. New Vocabulary and Modern English Literature

Today, the vocabulary used in English literature continues to evolve, especially with the rise of modern culture, technology, and globalization. The internet and technological advancements have brought new words and phrases into the language, which are often used in modern literary works.

For example, **J.K. Rowling** created many new words in her "**Harry Potter**" series, such as "Muggle" (a non-magical person) and "Quidditch" (a fictional sport), which have become common in modern English.

5. Choosing Vocabulary in Literary Works: The Writer's Purpose

The choice of vocabulary in literary works is often dictated by the writer's intention. Writers choose how to use linguistic devices to best express their themes and ideas.

- **Character and Their Worldview:** Writers use vocabulary that reflects a character's psychology, social status, and worldview. For example, **Mark Twain** uses southern dialects in "**Huckleberry Finn**" to reflect the reality of the period and region.
- **Impact on the Reader:** Writers use specific vocabulary to create a strong emotional connection with the reader. This use of language brings the reader closer to the story and allows them to better experience the text's world.

Conclusion

English literature stands out for its rich vocabulary and stylistic devices. The vocabulary used in literary works is not just a collection of words but a means of establishing a deeper connection between the writer and the reader. Literary vocabulary, through its imagery, symbolism, and emotional resonance, plays a crucial role in shaping the meaning and impact of a literary work.



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