

UNIT-1 LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Part-A

1. What are the Dravidian languages?

The Dravidian languages are a family of languages spoken mainly in South India and include Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam.

2. What is meant by classical language?

A classical language is a language with a rich literary heritage, ancient origins, and a significant body of literature. It is considered a prestigious language with a long history of influence.

3. Write any two world classical languages.

Two world classical languages are Tamil and Sanskrit.

4. List any two of the five great epics.

Two of the five great Tamil epics are *Silappathikaram* and *Manimegalai*.

5. Write about Distributive justice.

Distributive justice refers to the fair and equitable distribution of resources, opportunities, and benefits within a society, ensuring that everyone receives their due share.

6. Write a note on Aatrupadai.

Aatrupadai is a genre of Tamil poetry in Sangam literature where a poet guides others to a generous patron, often describing the patron's virtues and the rewards given to poets.

7. Give any two Bhakti literatures.

Two Bhakti literatures are *Naalayira Dhiya Prabandham* by Azhvars and *Thevaram* by the Nayanmars.

8. Mention any of the two Nayanmar's names.

Two Nayanmars are *Appar* (Thirunavukkarasar) and *Sundarar*.

9. List out any two literature works of Bharathiyaar.

Two literature works of Bharathiyaar are *"KuyilPattu"* and *"KannanPattu"*.

10. Give any two Bharathidasan's literatures.

Two literatures by Bharathidasan are *"Pudhumai Penn"* and *"PandianParisu"*.

Part-B

1. List out the management concepts in Thirukural

Thirukural, composed by Thiruvalluvar, is a treasure trove of ethical and moral guidance, often considered a foundational text in Tamil literature. It offers profound insights into management and leadership through various couplets (Kurals).

- **Leadership:** Thirukural emphasizes the importance of a leader's qualities, such as wisdom, fairness, and the ability to inspire followers. A good leader is one who is righteous, patient, and ensures the well-being of their people (Kural 382).
- **Decision-Making:** Effective decision-making is a key management concept in Thirukural. It advises leaders to deliberate thoroughly before making decisions and to avoid hasty actions that could lead to failure (Kural 469).
- **Planning and Strategy:** Thirukural highlights the significance of careful planning and strategic thinking. It suggests that a well-thought-out plan is essential for success and that planning should precede any action (Kural 677).
- **Time Management:** The text underscores the importance of time management, stating that timely actions are crucial for achieving goals. It advises seizing the right opportunities and acting promptly (Kural 675).
- **Human Resource Management:** Thirukural offers guidance on how to manage people effectively. It stresses the importance of understanding individuals' strengths and weaknesses, and assigning tasks accordingly (Kural 517).
- **Ethical Conduct:** Ethics in management is a recurring theme in Thirukural. It advocates for honesty, integrity, and ethical behavior in all aspects of life, including business and governance (Kural 131).

2. Explain the relation between Tamil and Bharathidasan

Bharathidasan, a renowned Tamil poet and writer, played a significant role in the Tamil literary renaissance. His relationship with the Tamil language is profound, as he used it as a powerful tool to express his revolutionary ideas, social reforms, and love for Tamil culture.

Promotion of Tamil Language: Bharathidasan dedicated his life to the promotion and preservation of Tamil. He believed that the Tamil language was not only a medium of communication but also a symbol of cultural identity and pride. His works often emphasized the richness and heritage of Tamil.

Advocate of Social Reforms: Bharathidasan used Tamil to address social issues, such as caste discrimination, gender equality, and freedom from colonial rule. He believed in using Tamil literature as a means to awaken the masses and inspire social change.

Influence of Tamil Literature: Bharathidasan was deeply influenced by classical Tamil literature, including Sangam poetry and works like Thirukural. He drew inspiration from these texts to craft his poems and essays, often blending traditional and modern themes.

Contribution to Tamil Literature: Through his prolific writing, Bharathidasan contributed immensely to the growth of modern Tamil literature. His works, which include poems, plays, and essays, are celebrated for their literary merit and social relevance.

3. Explain the contributions of Bharathiyar to Tamil literature

Subramania Bharathiyar, often hailed as Mahakavi Bharathiyar, is one of the most influential figures in Tamil literature. His contributions to Tamil literature are vast and multifaceted:

- **Revolutionary Poetry:** Bharathiyar's poetry was revolutionary, both in content and style. He wrote passionately about freedom, nationalism, and the rights of individuals. His poems inspired people to rise against colonial oppression and fight for independence.
- **Social Reform:** Bharathiyar was a strong advocate for social reform. He wrote extensively about the need to abolish caste discrimination, promote women's rights, and ensure social justice. His works reflected his belief in equality and human dignity.
- **Devotional Works:** Despite his revolutionary ideas, Bharathiyar also composed devotional poems that expressed his deep spirituality. His devotional works, such as "ChinnanchiruKiliye" and "KaakaiChiraginile," are still revered for their lyrical beauty and emotional depth.
- **Promotion of Tamil Language:** Bharathiyar was a fervent promoter of the Tamil language. He believed that Tamil literature should reach the masses and wrote in a style that was both accessible and powerful. His works helped rejuvenate Tamil literature and instill a sense of pride in Tamil identity.
- **Influence on Future Generations:** Bharathiyar's works have had a lasting impact on Tamil literature and culture. His ideas on freedom, equality, and social justice continue to inspire writers, activists, and ordinary people. He remains a symbol of Tamil pride and a guiding light for those who seek to bring about positive change in society.

4. Explain about Tamil epics

Tamil epics are long narrative poems that form a significant part of Tamil literature. They are known for their grandeur, historical significance, and portrayal of the cultural and moral values of the Tamil people. The two major Tamil epics are:

- **Silappathikaram:** Composed by IlangoAdigal, Silappathikaram is one of the earliest and most important epics in Tamil literature. It tells the story of Kannagi, a woman of immense virtue and

strength, who seeks justice for her wronged husband, Kovalan. The epic is not only a tale of personal tragedy but also a reflection on justice, morality, and the power of a virtuous woman. The epic is known for its vivid descriptions of Tamil cities, music, dance, and customs.

- **Manimegalai:** Written by Sathanar, Manimegalai is the sequel to Silappathikaram. It follows the life of Manimegalai, the daughter of Kovalan and Madhavi. Unlike her parents, Manimegalai chooses a life of celibacy and devotion, embracing Buddhism. The epic explores themes of renunciation, compassion, and the pursuit of spiritual enlightenment. It also provides insights into the spread of Buddhism in Tamil Nadu.

These epics are celebrated not only for their literary excellence but also for their deep philosophical and ethical teachings. They offer a glimpse into the societal values and cultural practices of ancient Tamil civilization.

5. Write about Tamil Minor Poetries

Tamil minor poetries, also known as "**Sitrlakkiyam**", refer to a body of short literary works in Tamil that are distinct from the grand epics and classical poetry. These minor works are characterized by their brevity, simplicity, and focus on specific themes or emotions. Some of the notable forms of Tamil minor poetries include:

- **Kurunthogai:** Part of the Sangam literature, Kurunthogai is an anthology of short love poems. These poems are known for their vivid imagery and expression of romantic feelings, often set against the backdrop of nature.
- **Aingurunooru:** This collection consists of 500 short poems, each dealing with themes of love and heroism. The poems are concise yet powerful, capturing the essence of human emotions and experiences.
- **Natrinai:** Another collection of love poems, Natrinai comprises 400 verses. The poems explore the different stages of love, from the initial attraction to the challenges faced by lovers.
- **Inna Narpathu and IniyavaiNarpathu:** These are two short poetic works that deal with the concepts of pleasure and pain. Inna Narpathu lists 40 things that cause pain, while IniyavaiNarpathu lists 40 things that bring joy. Both works offer moral and ethical guidance through their succinct verses.

6. Briefly explain the impact of Buddhism and Jainism in Tamil land

Buddhism and **Jainism** significantly influenced Tamil Nadu's culture, religion, and society during ancient times. Here's a brief explanation of their impact:

1. **Spread of Non-Violence and Ahimsa:** Both Buddhism and Jainism emphasized **non-violence (Ahimsa)**, which influenced Tamil society and practices, including vegetarianism and ethical living.
2. **Architectural Contributions:** Both religions contributed to the construction of **rock-cut caves** and temples, such as the Jain beds at Sittannavasal and the Buddhist remains at Nagapattinam.
3. **Literary Influence**
 - Jain and Buddhist monks enriched **Tamil literature** by writing philosophical and ethical works.
 - Tamil classics like **Silappatikaram** and **Manimekalai** reflect Buddhist values and teachings. Jain monks contributed to **Tirukkural**, which emphasizes morality and ethics.
4. **Educational Centers:** Buddhist **viharas** and Jain **pallis** served as centers of learning, spreading knowledge of philosophy, medicine, and literature.
5. **Decline of Ritualism:** Both religions challenged the dominance of **Brahminical rituals** and caste hierarchy, promoting equality and rational thought.
6. **Patronage by Kings:** Early Tamil rulers, like the Pandya and Pallava kings, supported these religions, fostering their growth.
7. **Decline:** Over time, Buddhism and Jainism declined in Tamil Nadu due to the resurgence of **Saivism** and **Vaishnavism**, but their values left a lasting legacy in Tamil culture. Their emphasis on **ethics, education, and equality** shaped Tamil society and continues to be remembered in literature and heritage.

7. Explain the criteria that classify a (Tamil) language as a "Classical Language.

The Tamil language was declared a **Classical Language of India** in 2004 based on the following criteria set by the Government of India:

1. Ancient literary and Heritage:

- The language must have a documented history of over **1500–2000 years**.
- Tamil has ancient texts like *Sangam literature* (2nd century BCE to 3rd century CE) that highlight its long history.

2. Significant body of Literature:

- The language should have a **rich literary tradition** independent of other languages.
- Tamil's vast literary works, including *Thirukkural*, *Silappatikaram*, and *Manimekalai*, stand as unique contributions.

3. Originality- Influence of other language:

- The classical language must exhibit **original literary traditions**, not borrowed from another language.
- Tamil's grammar (*Tholkappiyam*) and vocabulary are distinct and original.

4. Cultural Legacy:

- The language must have a significant cultural and historical influence.
- Tamil has played a crucial role in shaping Dravidian culture, art, and traditions.

5. Continuity:

- There must be a continuous literary tradition over centuries, maintaining the essence of the language.
- Tamil literature has evolved while retaining its classical roots.

Tamil fulfills all these criteria, making it one of the **oldest surviving classical languages in the world**.