

UNIT-1 LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Language Families in India - Dravidian Languages – Tamil as a Classical Language - Classical Literature in Tamil – Secular Nature of Sangam Literature – Distributive Justice in Sangam Literature - Management Principles in Thirukural - Tamil Epics and Impact of Buddhism & Jainism in Tamil Land - Bakthi Literature Azhwars and Nayanmars - Forms of minor Poetry - Development of Modern literature in Tamil - Contribution of Bharathiyar and Bharathidhasan.

PART-A QUESTION AND ANSWERS (1 MARK)

1. What is the Dravidian language family primarily known for? Southern Indian languages
2. Which language within the Dravidian family is considered a classical language? Tamil
3. What are the criteria for classifying a language as "classical"? Ancient literature, continuity, and cultural significance
4. Tamil holds the status of a classical language due to: Ancient literature, historical continuity, and cultural contributions
5. When is the estimated time period of Sangam Literature? 300 BCE to 300 CE
6. What themes are commonly found in Sangam Literature? Nature, love, war, and daily life
7. Sangam Literature is written in which language? Tamil
8. What does Sangam Literature provide insights into? Ancient Tamil society and culture
9. What is distributive justice? The idea of equitable distribution of resources and opportunities in society
10. How does Sangam Literature emphasize distributive justice? By highlighting communal harmony and sharing
11. Which of the following is a principle of distributive justice found in Sangam Literature? Equitable sharing of resources among all members of society
12. In Sangam Literature, what role does distributive justice play in shaping societal norms? It supports a fair and just social order.
13. Why is the emphasis on distributive justice significant in Sangam Literature? It promotes a balanced and harmonious society.
14. Thirukural is a classic work that emphasizes principles in various areas, including: Ethics and management
15. What is the central focus of Thirukural's management principles? Ethical conduct, leadership, and interpersonal relations
16. How have Thirukural's management principles been relevant in modern times? They continue to guide ethical behavior and effective leadership.
17. What is the primary characteristic that defines the secular nature of Sangam Literature? Coverage of diverse themes beyond religious subjects
18. Which themes are commonly explored in the secular Sangam Literature? Romantic love and relationships

19. Why is the secular nature of Sangam Literature significant in the context of ancient Tamil society? It reflected the diversity and inclusivity of Tamil society.
20. What impact did the secular themes of Sangam Literature have on the cultural identity of ancient Tamil society? It fostered a sense of unity and shared experiences.

PART-B QUESTION AND ANSWERS (2 MARK)

1. What are the major language families in India, and where do Dravidian languages like Tamil belong in this classification?

The major language families in India include Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, Austroasiatic, Sino-Tibetan, and Tibeto-Burman. Dravidian languages, such as Tamil, belong to the Dravidian language family.

2. Explain the criteria that qualify a language as a "Classical Language," and discuss why Tamil holds this status?

A language is designated as a "Classical Language" based on certain criteria, including its ancient origins, a rich and extensive body of literature, and its contribution to culture and civilization. Tamil meets these criteria and is recognized as a Classical Language due to its ancient literary heritage, spanning over two thousand years.

3. How does Sangam Literature reflect the concept of distributive justice in society?

Distributive justice in Sangam Literature refers to the equitable distribution of resources, wealth, and opportunities within the society. Poems in Sangam Literature emphasize the importance of fair treatment and equal access to resources for all members of the community.

4. Identify and discuss the management principles found in the Thirukural.

The Thirukural, authored by Thiruvalluvar, is a classic Tamil text that contains 1,330 couplets addressing various aspects of human life and ethics. It emphasizes management principles such as leadership, integrity, discipline, and effective communication, which are relevant in both personal and organizational contexts.

5. What are Tamil Epics, and how have they influenced the cultural and literary landscape?

Tamil Epics are narrative poems that depict heroic tales and moral values. Two notable Tamil Epics are "Silappathikaram" and "Manimekalai." These epics have had a profound impact on Tamil culture, literature, and artistic expressions.

6. Analyze the impact of Buddhism and Jainism on Tamil society and literature.
- The impact of Buddhism and Jainism on Tamil society and literature is evident in the incorporation of their ethical and philosophical teachings into Tamil literary works. These religions influenced the portrayal of compassion, non-violence, and spirituality in various literary compositions.
7. Who are Azhwars and Nayanmars, and what contributions did they make to Tamil literature?
- Azhwars and Nayanmars were prominent Tamil poet-saints who composed devotional hymns. Azhwars focused on devotion to Lord Vishnu, while Nayanmars emphasized devotion to Lord Shiva. Their hymns form an integral part of Tamil Bhakti Literature.
8. Define "Bakthi Literature" and provide examples of its prominent works in Tamil.
- Bakthi Literature comprises devotional poetry that expresses the intense love and devotion of the poet to a deity. This genre includes hymns, songs, and poems that reflect a deep spiritual connection between the individual and the divine.
9. Explain the different forms of minor poetry present in Tamil literature.
- Minor poetry in Tamil literature includes various short poetic forms such as Akam (love and nature poems) and Puram (heroic and moral poems). These forms contribute to a comprehensive understanding of emotions, relationships, and societal values.
10. Trace the evolution and key developments of modern literature in the Tamil language.
- Modern literature in Tamil evolved in response to changing socio-political contexts and the influence of Western literary trends. It encompasses various genres, including novels, short stories, and plays, reflecting contemporary themes and issues.
11. Assess the significant contributions of Bharathiyar and Bharathidasan to Tamil literature.

Subramania Bharathi (Bharathiyar) and Bharathidasan were notable contributors to modern Tamil literature. Bharathiyar's works encompassed patriotism, freedom struggle, and social reform, while Bharathidasan's poetry focused on social justice, equality, and self-expression.

PART-C QUESTION AND ANSWERS (6 MARK)

1. Language Families in India - Dravidian Languages

Question: Describe the major language families in India and elaborate on the characteristics of Dravidian languages. Provide examples of Dravidian languages and their distribution.

Answer: India is home to several language families, including Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, Austroasiatic, Sino-Tibetan, and Tibeto-Burman. Dravidian languages are primarily spoken in the southern parts of India and Sri Lanka. These languages are distinct from Indo-Aryan languages, with unique grammar, phonetics, and vocabulary. Examples of Dravidian languages include Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam. Tamil, one of the oldest languages in this family, has a rich literary tradition and is often considered a classical language due to its ancient history and cultural significance.

2. Tamil as a Classical Language

Question: Discuss the criteria that classify a language as a "Classical Language." Explain why Tamil holds the status of a Classical Language and its significance in literature and culture.

Answer: A language is designated as a Classical Language based on several factors, including its antiquity, a substantial body of ancient literature, its contribution to art and culture, and its continuous use over centuries. Tamil meets these criteria due to its ancient literary heritage spanning over two millennia, with texts like Sangam Literature and Tamil Epics. Tamil's classical status acknowledges its role in shaping cultural identity, fostering linguistic pride, and preserving historical knowledge.

3. Sangam Literature and Secular Themes

Question: Analyze the secular nature of Sangam Literature. Provide examples of secular themes explored in Sangam poems and explain how these themes provide insights into ancient Tamil society.

Answer: Sangam Literature consists of poems composed during the Sangam period in ancient Tamilakam. While many associate it with love and heroism, Sangam Literature also delves into secular themes like trade, agriculture, nature, and governance. Poems celebrating trade routes, agrarian activities, and descriptions of natural landscapes offer glimpses into the socio-economic fabric of that era. These secular themes provide a comprehensive picture of daily life, contributing to our understanding of societal structures and cultural practices.

4. Distributive Justice in Sangam Literature

Question: Define distributive justice and explain its representation in Sangam Literature. Provide examples of poems that reflect principles of distributive justice and discuss their significance.

Answer: Distributive justice involves the fair allocation of resources, opportunities, and benefits within a society. Sangam Literature showcases distributive justice through poems that emphasize equitable sharing, irrespective of social status. For instance, poems highlighting the impartial distribution of wealth, food, and rewards among individuals showcase a commitment to fairness. These examples illustrate an early awareness of social equality and an aspiration for just governance in ancient Tamil society.

5. Management Principles in Thirukural

Question: Explore the management principles presented in Thirukural. Discuss how Thirukural addresses leadership, ethics, discipline, and effective communication.

Answer: Thirukural, authored by Thiruvalluvar, provides insights into management principles applicable to both personal and organizational contexts. It emphasizes the significance of strong leadership, ethical conduct, discipline, and effective communication. For instance, couplets on leadership underscore the importance of leading by example and fostering trust among followers. Ethical values such as integrity, compassion, and accountability are integrated into Thirukural, making it a valuable resource for modern management practices.

6. Tamil Epics and Cultural Impact

Question: Describe Tamil Epics and their cultural impact. Analyze how Tamil Epics have shaped Tamil culture, literature, and artistic expressions.

Answer: Tamil Epics, such as "Silappathikaram" and "Manimekalai," are narrative poems that blend heroic tales with moral values. These epics have played a pivotal role in shaping Tamil culture, literature, and artistic expressions. They depict societal norms, ethical dilemmas, and human experiences, offering a window into historical values. The characters, stories, and themes from Tamil Epics continue to inspire various art forms, including visual arts, dance, music, and theater, thus preserving and enriching Tamil heritage.

7. Impact of Buddhism & Jainism in Tamil Land

Question: Examine the influence of Buddhism and Jainism on Tamil society and literature. How did these religions impact the philosophical and ethical aspects of Tamil cultural expression?

Answer: Buddhism and Jainism significantly impacted Tamil society and literature by introducing philosophical and ethical concepts that resonated with local traditions. Ideas of non-violence, compassion, and detachment influenced literary themes and characters. The emphasis on self-awareness and the pursuit of enlightenment influenced the portrayal of inner struggles and self-realization in Tamil literary works. These religions contributed to a more nuanced understanding of human nature, morality, and spirituality in Tamil cultural expressions.

8. Bakthi Literature: Azhwars and Nayanmars

Question: Define Bakthi Literature and discuss the contributions of Azhwars and Nayanmars to this genre. How did their devotional hymns influence Tamil spiritual and literary traditions?

Answer: Bakthi Literature comprises devotional poetry that expresses deep emotional attachment to a deity. Azhwars, devoted to Lord Vishnu, and Nayanmars, devoted to Lord Shiva, composed hymns that exemplify intense

devotion. Their works celebrate divine love, express religious fervor, and explore the human-divine relationship. These hymns not only enriched Tamil spiritual practices but also paved the way for a new era of devotional expression, deeply impacting subsequent Tamil literature and religious thought.

9. Development of Modern Literature in Tamil

Question: Trace the development of modern literature in Tamil. How did socio-political changes and Western influences contribute to the evolution of modern Tamil literary genres?

Answer: Modern Tamil literature evolved against the backdrop of socio-political changes, including colonialism and cultural exchanges. The encounter with Western literary trends introduced new forms and ideas, leading to the emergence of modern literary genres such as novels, short stories, and plays. These genres addressed contemporary issues, societal reforms, and human experiences, reflecting the changing aspirations and challenges of Tamil society.

10. Contribution of Bharathiyar and Bharathidhasan

Question: Assess the significant contributions of Bharathiyar and Bharathidhasan to Tamil literature. How did their works impact Tamil cultural and literary landscapes?

Answer: Bharathiyar and Bharathidhasan were influential figures in modern Tamil literature. Bharathiyar's poems infused patriotism, social consciousness, and gender equality, galvanizing the freedom movement. Bharathidhasan's poetry championed social justice, labor rights, and self-expression. Their contributions enriched Tamil literary and cultural landscapes by addressing pressing issues, inspiring social change, and elevating Tamil identity through powerful verses.

Very long question and Answers PART-C QUESTION AND ANSWERS (14 MARK) (FOR BOARD EXAM PREPARATION)

1. Explain in detail the language families in India.

The languages spoken in India belong to several language families, each with its own distinct characteristics, origins, and influences. Here is an in-depth explanation of the major language families in India:

1. Indo-Aryan Languages:

The Indo-Aryan language family is the largest and most widely spoken language family in India. These languages are descendants of Sanskrit and have evolved over time. Indo-Aryan languages are primarily spoken in the northern, western, and central regions of India. Some of the notable Indo-Aryan languages include Hindi, Bengali, Punjabi, Gujarati, Marathi, and Urdu.