Abstract: The words, language and literature are familiar to every literate person. Perhaps these are the two words which are most commonly used by the literate people because language and literature are used not only for literary works but also for medical science, computer science and all other subjects of studies. We often hear a professor of medicine telling his students. "I will supply you the literature on the function of the brain" or a professor of computer science talking about the language of computer and its literature. But very few people know the real meaning of language and literature in a wide sense. In this paper we propose to discuss the definition, meaning, function of language and literature and the difference between language and literature. We also propose to discuss the purpose, aim and benefit of studying literature. We study language because we want to speak and communicate with others but why do we study literature? What are the benefits of studying literature in this scientific age? Isn't it the wastage of time and energy to study poetry, novels, short stories or drama?

Keywords---Language, Literature, Literary language, Benefit of literature, Scope of literature.

Introduction
In our daily speech we generally take language and literature as a same thing. For us both of them has the same meaning. If you ask any teacher of English, "what do you teach?", he would say "language and literature". When he says this, he does not make any difference between language and literature. He takes them as one thing as a compound word. In fact we use language and literature as a single compound word having the one meaning. But it is not so in reality. If we go deep into the meaning of the words, language and literature, we find a great difference between them. We also find that language is primary and literature is secondary. The Free Encyclopedia defines language as "the human capacity for acquiring and using complex systems of communications." (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia). In fact the word, language, has been originally derived from Latin word, 'Lingua' which means 'tongue'. When we use language in general, it refers to the cognitive faculty which enables us to learn and use systems of complex communication. Language was originated when the early men, having different cultures, started co-operating with one another. At this time they needed a common language to convey their thoughts and ideas to others. So they invented a sign language which soon became very common. But, as the human being's nature is, they were not satisfied with the sign language. The wanted to convert their thoughts into words and wanted to hear the thoughts. So they started finding words which may produce sound. Ultimately they succeeded and the language with sound came into existence. Since the people had different cultures and regions, different languages came into existence. After the invention of language they learnt the art of writing and, as a result, started expressing themselves in writing. Whatever they wrote was preserved and thus in this way literature came into existence. Thus we see that literature is the product of language and so it depends on language. If a language is dead, automatically, its literature is also dead. It has been rightly said that if you want to kill and destroy a community, first kill its language, the community will automatically be killed and vanished. Since there are many languages (nearly 3000—6000 languages are spoken in all over the world) so many different literature came into existence. Every language has its own literature. The literature of a language is rich because of the correct use of the language by the writers of that language. A group of language that descended from a common ancestor is known as a language family. Followings are the language families that are most spoken in the world today:

a. Indo-European family---This family includes English, Russian, Spanish and Hindi languages.
b. The Sino-Tibetan family---This family includes Mandarin, Chinese, Cantonese and many other languages.
c. Semitic family---This include Arabic, Amharic and Hebrew languages.
d. Bantu family---This includes Swahili, Zulu, Shona and hundreds of other languages spoken throughout Africa.
Differences between language and literature
1. Language is a set of words to express our ideas to others. This is a means through which we express our thoughts. Without means we can not express our thoughts. On the other hand, literature is the thought which is expressed with the help of language. Thus it is clear that without language there is no existence of literature because without language we can not express our thoughts. Language is the fundamental unit of literature. It can be said that language makes literature.
2. Literature is produced by the creation of works in a particular language by the writer of the language. On the other hand, language is a mode of expression of thoughts by means of articulate sound. There can be as many literature as there are languages.
3. A language comprises of sounds, words and sentences. While literature is made up of the thoughts expressed in any given language.
4. Thus it can be said that literature has several forms which are called literary forms like prose, poetry, drama, novel, epic, short stories etc. All these literary forms are laden with language in which it is written. In short it can be said that the entire literature is constructed by the language in which it is written.
5. Language is the method of expression whereas literature is the collection of such expression in the said forms mentioned above. Any literature can be said to be rich or poor depending upon the correctness of the language in which it is created.

Literary Language
Literary language is that language which is used in literary criticism and general discussion on some literary works. English has been used as a literary language in countries that were ruled by the British Empire such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Nigeria etc. where English is official language even today. Before the 18th century the language of literature was totally different from the language which was used by the common man in spoken or written. So literature was not easy to understand for a common man. Only highly qualified and educated people could enjoy the reading of literature. So literature was far away from the reach of the common people. Shakespear's language was not easy to understand for common Elizabethans. Similarly Samuel Johnson's prose was not easy for common people because it was full of rhetoric with antecedent models in Greek and Latin. It was only Daniel Defoe (1660-1731) who wrote the major works of literature in the ordinary English language. Since then the language of literature has changed a lot. In the modern time we find literature written in the languages which are really used by common people in their daily life. This is the reason why literature has become popular in our time. Now every literate person can enjoy the reading of literature of his or her choice because it is written in the language which he or she uses in daily life. So now a days literature has become close to the people and so its readership has increased. On the part of writers it has now become a style to write in ordinary and common language.

Literature
To define literature is very difficult. In ordinary sense we can say whatever is written is literature but there can not be a clear and precise definition of literature because its scope is so vast that it covers almost all the spheres of life. Different scholars have differently defined the literature but those definition can not be taken as final. Everyone has his own definition of literature based on his understanding of literature. But it is a universally accepted fact that literature is the mirror of our lives in which we see the reflections of our lives. Literature, in its most comprehensive meaning, includes all the activities of human soul in general, or within particular sphere, period, country, or a language. (Nabila Tanvir, Literature and its Scope, 2009, in www.classic-enotes.com). Literature is that form of writing which arouses our feeling of the beautiful by the perfection of form or excellence of ideas or by both. Collins English dictionary defines literature as written materials such as poetry, novels, essays, etc. especially works of
imagination characterized by excellence of style and expression and by themes of general or enduring interest.

Esther Lamba has defined literature as a term used to describe written or spoken material. Broadly speaking, literature is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but the term is mostly used for the creative imagination, including works of poetry, drama, fiction, and non-fiction (Esther Lamba, in www.classicallit.about.com). As we know, the word, literature, has been derived from the Latin word, 'litterae' which means letter. So literature means "things made from letters." But it is also not confined to only published works. Unpublished work also may be literature which is called oral literature. Like any other branch of studies, literature is also divided into four major classes namely poetry, prose, fiction, and non-fiction. It may also be divided according to historical periods, genres, and political influences. The Important historical periods in English literature are the Renaissance period, old English period, Middle English period, Shakespearean and Elizabethan period, 18th century Restoration period, 19th century Victorian period, and the 20th century modern period. There are also many important movements in English literature. Romanticism, Feminism, post-colonialism, post-structuralism, post modernism, psycho-analysis, Marxism etc. are the important movements in English literature.

**Scope of literature**
The scope of literature is very wide. It can cover everything which is on the earth. Literature has the capacity to incorporate within itself the entire universe of discourses. In fact the scope of literature is everything which can come into the human mind. It includes everything from Mathematics to Philosophy and to the other intricate sciences. Since literature reflects life, so the scope of literature covers the whole life of every man. It can be best understand in the context of what Leo-Tolstoy, the Russian writer said while defining literature. He said that literature fails if it can not answer the two fundamental questions: who we are and how shall we live. If literature does not teach us how to live and does tell our identification as human beings, then it is something else, not literature in a true sense. Tolstoy's this statement defines literature, tells us about the function and aim of literature as well as its scope. Tolstoy believes that these two questions drive all literature and should be guiding principles upon which all literature is based. These are the two questions which also deal with the scope of literature. The point here is that all literature should answer these two fundamental questions. Literature tells us who we are and how should we live in this world. It means that the literature has completely encompassed our life, since our birth to our death. This very idea shows how wide the scope of literature is.

**Why should we study literature?**
It is a frequently asked question why should we study literature? In this modern age when man has conquered the moon, is it proper to live in the world of imagination? What is the use of studying literature while there are a lot of things to know and study which are based on reality and which can benefit the whole community of the world. Isn't it the wastage of time and energy to read a poem, a novel, short stories, or dramas in this age of science and technology? Here, again, we have to look towards what Leo-Tolstoy has said regarding the aim of literature. According to him literature answers two important questions which are related all to the human beings in the world and they are: who we are and how should we live in this world. The answer of very these questions proves that literature is vital for our life because it reflects our life in it. When we study literature we come to know ourselves which is a kind of self revelation. We come to where we are committing mistake in our life and so we can make correction. In fact literature is the mirror of social and political life of the age in which it was written. It represents the life of its age. So literature is a kind of documents which contains the history, social or political, of its time. By studying literature of any age, we come to know about the culture, tradition, habits, customs, and the way of living of the people of that age. If we read Chaucer's poetry, we come to know about the people of the 14th century and their culture, tradition, customs and their habits. When we study Shakespeare's sonnets and plays, we are acquainted with the culture, custom, habits and fashion of the people of the Elizabethan period. When we read or watch Congreve's play, The Way of the World, we get knowledge about the customs, habits, fashion, and the way of the living of the people of the aristocratic society of the 17th century London. In the 18th century the novel emerged as an important literary form. If we read the novels written in the 18th century we find the description of customs, cultures, habits, and the daily life of the people of 18th century. The same case is with the modern or 20th or 21st century literature. So we can say that literature is a kind of historical documents which contains the true information about the age and the society in which it was written. Thus literature
provides us not only pleasure and enjoyment but also factual information of a particular age and its society.

The second utility of studying literature is that it introduces ourselves to us. It tells us who we are and how should we live in this world. The study of literature makes a man sober and gentle and also teaches us the art of living. All the great and genuine literature deals with our life and way of our living. Literature helps us understand ourselves and the purpose of our life in this world. Thus it is clear that study of literature is vital for us to understand ourselves, our lives and the art of living.

The third point is that literature is a communication for the educated people. It communicates through characters, stories, essays, poetry or fiction. It is an art. Not all people can reach up to it. It is as special as science is by itself. As we have discussed above, literature is a mirror to the contemporary life. Literature contains everything in it—the thoughts of the great people, joy, happiness or pain of the common poor people. The ideals of history, science or the society are also glorified through literature. Literature is a world in itself because it can take everything in its range. The language also attains its ultimate through literature. Therefore, before making a study of mankind, we should go through the literature it has created. Thus the gist of the discussion, why should we study literature is below:

1. We should study literature because it gives us pleasure and joy. It is entertaining. We read literature for the same reason that we watch movies and television.
2. Literature has a wide range. It takes us to a new world, places, and in the different periods of time. It broadens our minds and our horizon.
3. Through literature we discover ourselves. We find ourselves and our life in a character. The characters of a novel or a drama reflect our life. It is through the study of literature that we see ourselves.
4. The study of literature improves our thinking skill. It trains us in the field of high order and high thinking. We learn this by analyzing themes, characters and symbols in a work of literature. It enlightens our imaginative power of the mind.
5. Different people study literature for different reasons. Some study for entertainment and pleasures, some for getting information whereas some for spiritual purposes. It can, thus, be said that the reason of study may vary from people to people, but literature benefits all the people who study literature.
6. The study of literature also enriches our vocabulary power. We read literature and come across many new words. Thus we learn new words.
7. It also improves our art of writing. We discuss the themes, characterization etc. and using our minds we write them. This also improves our writing power.

**Conclusion**

Our foregoing discussion shows that language is not only a collection of words in an unabridged dictionary but the individual and social passion of human beings. With the development of human race, the language also developed and kept on changing. A number of languages emerged and died after some time. The languages which are no more in use are called dead languages. But a number of languages are still used by a lot of people. They are called modern languages. We have also seen that the language of which is used in literature is different from the language used by the ordinary people. These languages are called the Literary Language. The literary language contains symbols, metaphor, hyperbole, etc., to express the writer's views effectively. But in our modern age the situation is changed. Now it is considered to be a writer's quality to use the language of the ordinary people in his literary works.

Since the literature is the expression of human thoughts, its content is limitless because the thoughts and desire of human beings to communicate with one another is also limitless. The subject matter of literature is as wide as human experience itself. So the themes of literature have at once an infinite variety and an abiding constancy. They can be taken from myth, from history, from contemporary events or they can be a pure invention of the writer. We have also noticed that literature has two aspects—the first is enjoyment and appreciation and the second is the analysis and exact description. When study literature we go to a new world—a world of dream and magic—which is totally different from our own real world. Being an art literature expresses life in forms of truth and beauty. It reflects truth and beauty which are present in the world but remain hidden from ordinary people. They are brought to our attention by a sensitive human soul, the writer. On this basis literature has got two meanings. "In the broadest sense, perhaps, literature means simply the written records of the race, including all its history and sciences, as well as its poems and novels; in the narrow sense literature is the artistic record of life, and most of our writing is excluded from it...." (William J. Long, English literature). One of the best qualities of literature is its universality. Literature is produced in many countries, in many languages but literature does not know the
boundary of nation or race. It has universal appeal because it appeals to all human emotions. It basically deals with human emotion—love, hate, joy, sorrow, fear, and faith.

As we have mentioned above, literature is like a historical documents of the people of a particular age because it records not only their deeds, customs and habit but also their dreams, their thoughts which made their deeds possible. That is why Aristotle has said that "poetry is more serious and philosophical than history". Many people criticize literature as a mere play of imagination without any practical importance. But, in fact, they themselves have not fully understand the literature. Literature is very near to our life and truth because it preserves the ideals of people which are the part of human life. We may conclude this paper with the following quotation of William J. Long in English Literature which summarizes our discussion:

**Literature is the expression of life in words of truth and beauty; it is the written record of man's spirit, of his thoughts, emotions, aspirations; it is the history, and the only history, of the human soul. It is characterized by its artistic, its suggestive, its permanent qualities. Its object, aside from the delight it gives, is to know man, that is, the soul of man rather than his actions; and since it preserves to the race the ideals upon which all our civilization is founded, it is one of the most important and delightful subjects that can occupy the human mind.**

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