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Translation Department

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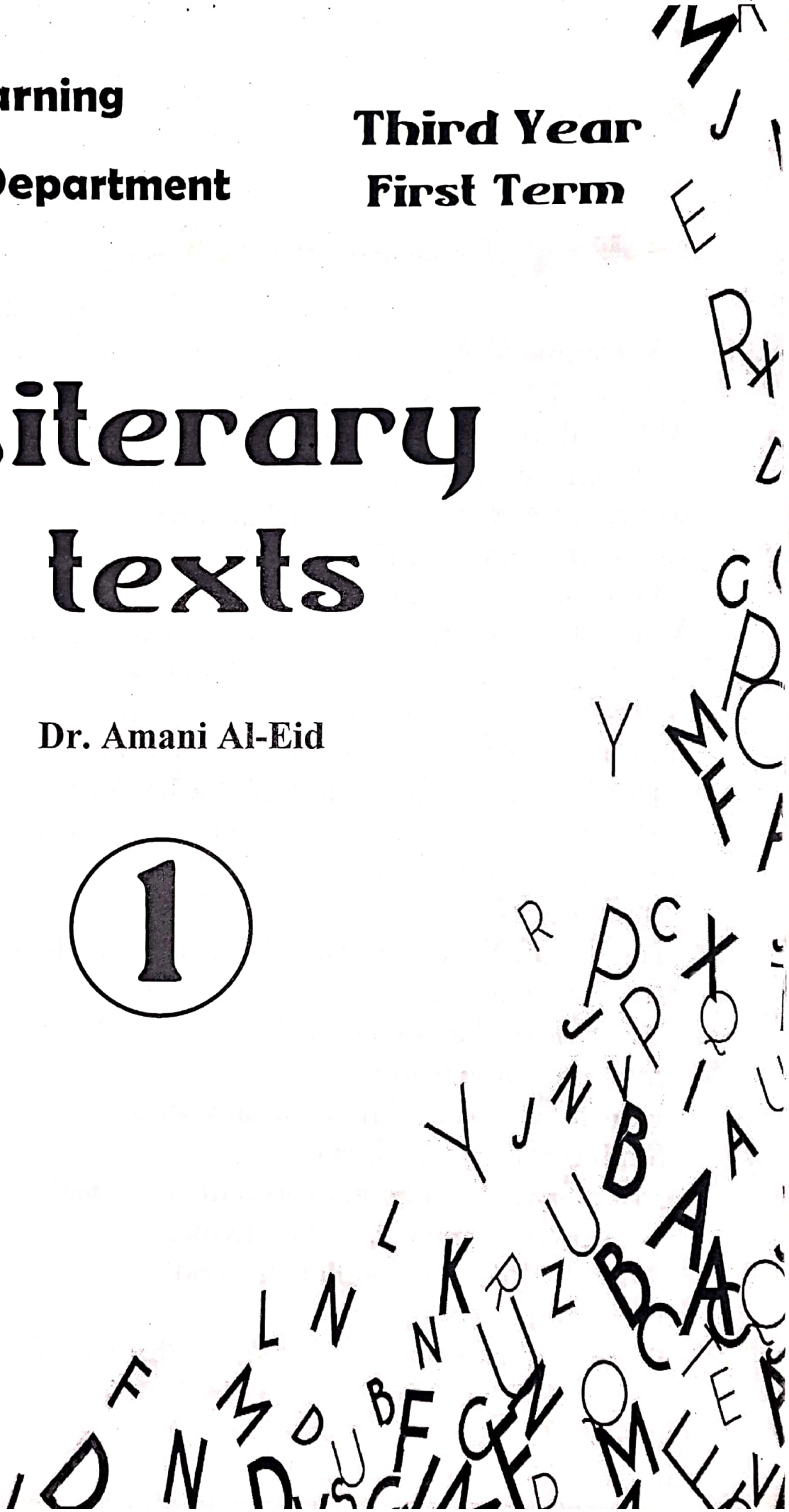
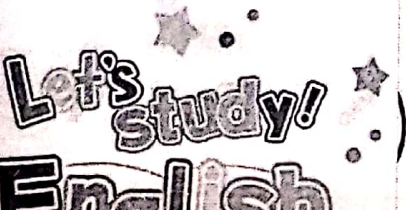
Literary texts

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Good morning!

• **ملاحظة من المفرغة:**

كما اعتدنا سابقاً كل ما هو ضمن مستطيل هو كلام مقتبس من الكتاب، أما ما تبقى فهو كلام الدكتورة في المحاضرة.

Welcome to this poetry course. My name is Amani Al-Eid. I graduated from Damascus University few years ago. I did my MA and my PhD in modern British drama at Manchester University in England. I graduated in 2014, and then I returned to my country. I've been teaching poetry for a long time, like 7 to 8 years, and it's one of my favorite subjects.

Our book is "**Literary Texts for Translators 1**" by Ph.D. Waddah Al-Khatib. So, you really need to get the book for the next time. I am going to start with this book next time. I think it is available, or you can borrow it from your colleagues and photocopy page 7 to page 21 for next lecture.

Don't arrive late to my lecture. I will not let you in.

We were discussing the meaning of poetry, have you studied poetry in English before?

Students: No.

Instructor: What is poetry? What is the definition of poetry?

Student: poems.

Instructor: what are poems?

Student: some words.

Instructor: that doesn't make any sense!

Students: no it has rhyme.

Instructor: ok, can you explain the meaning of "rhyme"?

So, poetry: some words that rhyme.

Student: the same sound at the end

Instructor:

Rhyme: to have the same sound at the end of the verse.

I will read you something by William Shakespeare on page 23. This is our sonnet which we will study soon by William Shakespeare: sonnet no. 20

I want to give you an example on rhyme.

What do we mean by rhyme? That is what Shakespeare says:

Sonnet no. 20

*A woman's face with nature's own hand painted
Hast thou, the master mistress of my passion;
A woman's gentle heart but not acquainted
With shifting change as is false woman's fashion;*

So, words like (painted, acquainted) are an example of a rhyme.

A rhyme means repeated sound patterns at the end of verses.

What is the "verse"?

A verse is a line of poetry.

Now, let's go back to my original question; what is poetry?

Student: the text that cannot be translated.

Instructor: very good, and that's what Robert Frost said at the very beginning of our book.

So, the American poet Robert Frost defines poetry as "poetry is what gets lost in translation".

He means it is very difficult to translate poetry into other languages because it is almost intangible. It is in the air. It is incomprehensible. You will realize soon when we try to understand poetry; we will come up with different meanings to the same poem. So, to translate that plurality of meanings of poetry into one language is a big challenge.

Student: in my opinion, poetry is a set of words that have a musical sound or maybe it didn't have, and when we combined it together, it had a sense which is specialized in the mind of the writer of this poem.

Instructor: excellent. So, a set of words that could be musical or not musical

They could have a melody, or they could be without melody. They could have music or without music. We will talk about music later on. The meaning of that set of words is in the hand or in the mind of the writer. Basically, as readers and as people

who enjoy reading poetry, we are basically guessing the meaning. That's why some writers said that interpretation is in the eye of interpreter. We might have different interpretation to one poem but we never know what the writer actually meant. That's why it is very difficult to translate poetry into other language.

Ok, other definitions of poetry: what does poetry mean for you?

Student: it is a genre.

Another student: produce some ideas in a beautiful way.

Another one: it is a state.

Instructor: state of what?

Students: state of passion, mind, or feeling; something imaginary, of soul, or an expression of emotions. It can also reflect what happens in a society.

Instructor: ok, let me read you a definition of poetry. Jobran khalil Jobran says: "poetry is a deal of joy and pain and wonder with a dash of a dictionary".

What does he mean? Can you explain?

He means it is a mixture of emotions. It could be about tragedy, something funny, a state of emotions expressed with words.

Another poet, William Hazlitt says:

"Poetry is all that is worth remembering in life".

Mary Oliver, another writer, says: "poetry isn't a profession; it is a way of life".

So, it is not a job; it is a way of life.

It is an empty basket. You put your life into it.

• تحدثت الدكتورة عن أهمية الشعر وإمكانية نجاته في زمن التكنولوجيا والأمور التي تجعل من الشعر شعراً جيداً وكيف أن الشعر يعكس حياة الأشخاص.

How do we study poetry? What do we look at?

The message, the main idea, the theme, what is the poetry trying to communicate, read behind the lines, understand the poem in general, the background, the historical period, culture, to know the poet himself (ex: who is William Shakespeare)...

When we analyze poetry, we ask ourselves:

Element no. 1: Who is the speaker? What kind of person is he?

Element no. 2: To whom is the speaker speaking? Who is the audience?

Element no. 3: what are the situation and the setting of the poem "time +place"?

Element no. 4: what is the purpose of the poem?

Element no. 5: can you state the central idea or theme of a poem?

Element no. 6: can you describe the structure of a poem?

Element no. 7: how does the structure relate to the content? Is there a relationship between form and content in poetry?

Element no. 8: what is the tone of the poem? (anger, joy, optimism...) and how is it achieved?

Element no. 9: study the poems diction; discuss any words which seem especially well chosen.

By diction, I mean the type of words.

Element no. 10: usages of figurative language (ex: metaphor, onomatopoeia,...) and what is the effect of using it?

So, we need to study the figurative language when it comes to poetry.

We need to ask ourselves; what's the effect of using, for example, metaphor and not other figures of language?

Explain the use of any sound device and whether they aid in conveying tone or theme.

- Sound devices are very important when it comes to poetry writing.

Did the poet speak really fast or did the poet slow down? Was this deliberate choice? Where did they pause? What effect did this have on the reader?

So, these are some elements that we should take into consideration when we study poetry.

Figures of speech:

An example of figurative language that states something that is not literally true in order to create an effect.

Similes, metaphors and personification are figures of speech which are based on comparisons, synecdoche, apostrophe, oxymoron, and hyperbole are other figures of speech.

Have you heard of “**alliteration**”?

Students: no.

Instructor: what’s the meaning of “alliteration”?

So, let’s start with figures of speech:

(figures of speech= figurative language)

1. Alliteration:

- The cloud was fluffy like a cotton candy.

• Tongue twisters:

- She sells sea shells by the sea shore. The shells she sells are sea-shells, I’m sure. For if she sells sea-shells by the sea shore, then I’m sure she sells sea-shore shells

- Can you can a can as a canner can can a can?

So, where is the alliteration?

Alliteration is the repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of words that are enclosed proximity to each other.

✓ In the first example, the repetition of “c” sound is what we call **Alliteration**.

Tongue twisters, which are very popular among children and teenagers, are an example of alliteration.

What do we mean by “tongue twisters”?

Tongue twister is a phrase that is designed to be difficult to articulate properly and can be used as a type of word game.

✓ In the second example, can you identify alliteration in this tongue twister?

S & sh sound.

Tongue twisters are quite popular because they are funny when you make mistake between s & sh, for example, so they are funny because they are very difficult.

Alliteration is used for musical effect; usually in poetry, it is a repetition of the initial sounds of several words in a group. The following line from Shakespeare's "Ariel's song" in *the Tempest* provides us with an example of alliteration: "Full Fathom Five thy Father lies." The repetition of the (f) sound creates a sense of drowning and swallowing water, emphasizing the sense of the father's death.

2. Allusion:

What is "allusion"?

Student: to mention something or somebody but in indirect way.

Instructor: good, can you think of an example?

- Don't act like a Romeo in front of her!
- This place is like a Garden of Eden.

The first one, can you tell me why is this an allusion?

Who is Romeo? Romeo from Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare: This is what we call allusion.

When a writer refers to another work; this is what we call allusion. In Arabic اقتباس

Allusion is different from quotation; it is indirect reference to a person, place, thing, or idea of historical cultural literary or political significance.

It does not describe in detail the person or thing to which it refers. It is just a passing comment, and the writer expects the reader to possess enough knowledge and spot the allusion and grasp its importance in a text. So, you have to read so much in order to find out the allusion. You have to be familiar with William Shakespeare, Jobran Khalil Jobran and many other

writers. You have to be familiar with the bible because we have different types of allusion. They can be historical; refer to history texts, they can be literary, religious allusion; if somebody write a poetry and use something from the bible, we call it biblical allusion as the second example.

The second example is a biblical allusion **جنة عدن**

We also have classical allusion which refers back to methodology, for example Roman and Greek methodology. Also, if you are not familiar with Roman and Greek methodology, you will not be able to spot the allusion.

So, it is a brief and indirect reference to a person, place, thing, or an idea on historical, cultural, literary, political, or religious significance.

Allusion is a reference in one literary work to an element of another literary work. T.S Eliot, in "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" alludes (refers) to the biblical figure John the Baptist in the line:

Though I have seen my head (grown slightly bald) brought in upon a platter.

The allusion is to the story of Salome and John the Baptist, whose head according to the Bible, was brought on a silver platter to the seductive Salome.

3. Metaphor:

- Time is a thief.
- She is an angel.

4. Simile:

- She is as pure as an angel.
- She is like a red rose.

So, what is the difference between a simile and a metaphor?
Can you define a metaphor for me?

A metaphor is a comparison between two things that are not similar, and we find something about them to make them similar.

In the second example, this woman and angel are quite different, but we have found some kind of similarity between her and the angel.

Simile is like a metaphor but with some addition. We add "as/ like".

Metaphor: a figure of speech wherein a comparison is made between two entities in order to create a sense of memorable novelty. A simple metaphor that has become a cliché in the language is "she is a rose," meaning she is beautiful or gentle. In "his face was an iceberg," the poet may want to convey the strictness, lack of emotions, stiffness, or heartlessness of the character described.

Simile: A figure of speech which takes the form of a comparison between two unlike quantities for which a basis for comparison can be found, and which uses the words "like" or "as" in the comparison. A good example is the beginning of Lord Byron's poem, *she walks in beauty*:

She walks in beauty like the night

5. Onomatopoeia:

What's the meaning of it?

Words that make a sound

It is a difficult word because it is from Greek language. It is a combination of two Greek words: one meaning name and the other meaning I make; so, it means the name or the sound I make.

We have different kinds of it:

Ones related to water such as: splash, sprinkle, spray.

Words related to voice such as: whistle, hissing, giggling, murmur.

Words related to Collision: crash, bang, clack, click, ding,...

Words related to air: whisper...

Animal sounds....

Onomatopoeia: a literary device wherein the sound of a word echoes its meaning. The words “ding dong,” “squeaky,” and “roar” are examples.

The following alliteration in John Keats’s *To Autumn* is an example:

The hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind

The alliterative repetition of the sound /w/ is presumably onomatopoeic, since it echoes the sound of the wind.

6. Hyperbole: it is an exaggeration.

- I’m so hungry I can eat a horse.

It is not meant to be taken literally.

- I have million things to do.

Means I am quite busy.

- I had a ton of homework.

Hyperbole: A figure of speech in which an overstatement or exaggeration occurs as in the following lines from Act 2, scene 2 of Shakespeare’s “Macbeth.”

In this scene, Macbeth has murdered King Duncan. Horrified at the blood on his hands, he asks:

Will all great Neptune’s ocean wash this blood
Clean from my hand? No. This my hand will rather
The multitudinous seas incarnadine, Making the green one
red.

Literally, it does not require an ocean to wash blood from one’s hand, nor can the blood on one’s hand turn the green ocean red. The hyperbole works to illustrate the guilt Macbeth feels at the brutal murder of his king and kinsman.

7. Personification

Give human qualities of non-human

- The alarm was screaming.

- The door was crying. (Arabic song)

- والصبح إذا تنفس

- The stars are dancing in the sky.

Personification is the attribution of human qualities to an inanimate object or non-human entity.

8. Pun:

It uses words that have several meanings or words that sound similar but have different meaning.

(like the word flower)

We also define it as a play on words.

- Ice cream (sound like I scream)
- The other day I held the door open for a clown. I thought it was a nice jester. (gesture)

They are almost the same sound.

الكلمة "jester" تعني مهرج ومعنى الكلمة القريبة "gesture" بادرة جيدة.

- A boiled egg every morning is hard to beat (hit/ necessary/ overcome resist).
- A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two-tired (too exhausted/ too tired)

Pun: A play on words wherein a word is used to convey two meanings at the same time.

9. Anaphora:

The repetition of the same word or group of words at the beginning of successive closes, sentences, or lines

- This royal throne of king
This earth of majesty
This other Eden demi-paradise

10. Anastrophe:

- Beautiful she is. (instead of "she is beautiful")

It is the inversion of usual order of words.

It is quite common in poetry.

That's all is all for today
See you next time.

Alanwar
Est.



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