

## LEARNING CULTURE THROUGH LITERARY TEXT

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*Abstract:*

This article is devoted for significant role of literary texts in facilitating cultural understanding. It emphasizes the manifold benefits of engaging with literary works as a means to deepen cultural competence.

*Key words:* cultural identity, literary, author, language, literary text, culture, traditions, literature, reader, learning, cultural aspect.

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In order to have a better grasp of new cultural knowledge, referring to any books or writings which contain literary text is the best option. Researchers suggest that engaging with literary texts enhances cultural competence by providing readers with a deeper understanding of diverse perspectives, fostering empathy, and challenging cultural stereotypes. While learning them, the language, characters, setting and themes in literary texts should be focused on. Such literary text can be found in novels, poems, plays, or any other form of literature deeply rooted in a specific cultural context. Along with the cultural aspects of that text, political, economic, social and historical influences are recognized, as well that they shaped the author's perspective. The language of the text is a crucial part, and we can find its richness and depth by paying careful attention to dialects, idioms, and linguistic nuances, which serve as channels for expressing the cultural identity of the characters or the setting. In doing so, it becomes evident that language is not just a medium for communication but also a powerful vessel for conveying the complexities and intricacies of a culture's values, customs, and historical background. This linguistic tapestry not only enriches the narrative but also deepens our understanding of the cultural milieu within which the story unfolds. Furthermore, roles, relationships, and interactions of characters in the given literature should also be analyzed, as they often embody cultural archetypes and societal norms. The dynamic interplay of character roles, relationships, and interactions offers a window into the cultural atmosphere. As characters navigate their narrative journeys, their choices and conflicts illuminate the multifaceted tapestry of cultural beliefs, traditions, and social conventions, thereby offering readers an opportunity to delve into the intricate interplay of individual and collective experiences within a cultural framework. By examining the characters in this manner, readers gain valuable insights.

Usually, recurring symbols, motifs, or cultural references within the text provide deep cultural meanings and beliefs of the society portrayed. Through these elements, authors often embed profound cultural, historical, and societal connotations, offering readers an immersive glimpse into the complexities and

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nuances of the depicted culture. These literary devices serve as gateways to the cultural ethos, shedding light on prevailing beliefs, traditions, and collective experiences. By discerning the subtle interplay of these symbols and motifs, readers gain insight not only into the narrative's thematic underpinnings but also into deeper cultural meanings, personal and communal identities, and the larger social fabric at play. The richness of a culture is unveiled through these persistent elements, with each recurrence adding layers of significance and depth to the narrative canvas.

There is also author's background and outlook which we should consider, they often draw on their own cultural experiences, and understanding their viewpoint can enhance our interpretation of the text. For example, an author who grew up in a specific cultural or religious tradition may incorporate features and intentions from that tradition into their work. Understanding the author's background can provide valuable context and understanding their significance within the text in the story. Additionally, an author's personal outlook and experiences can shape the themes and messages of their work, and recognizing this can enrich our understanding of the text. By considering the author's background and viewpoint, readers can gain a deeper appreciation for the layers of meaning within a literary work.

According to cognitive science suggestions that reading literature stimulates the brain in unique ways, promoting cognitive flexibility and the ability to understand complex social dynamics, which are integral to cultural learning. Here are a few examples that highlight the cognitive benefits derived from engaging with literary works:

1. **Enhanced Empathy and Perspective-Taking:** Literary texts, particularly narratives that delve into diverse characters emotions, have been linked to increased levels of empathy and perspective-taking. For example, readers who engage with stories depicting characters from varied cultural backgrounds or societal positions are often prompted to empathize with their experiences, thereby expanding their capacity for understanding diverse perspectives.

2. **Critical Thinking and Complex Problem-Solving:** Literary texts often present readers with intricate and multifaceted scenarios, compelling them to analyze and synthesize complex information. For instance, deciphering symbolism, interpreting allegory, or navigating through multifaceted character dynamics within a novel can foster critical thinking skills and enhance problem-solving abilities, elements integral to navigating complex social dynamics.

3. **Cultural Fluency and Social Awareness:** Literature provides a panoramic view of cultural traditions, social constructs, and historical contexts, enabling readers to develop a nuanced understanding of diverse cultural milieus. For example, exposure to narratives that explore cultural customs, societal norms, and historical events fosters cultural fluency and social awareness, essential for comprehending and navigating multifaceted social dynamics.

4. **Fostering Inclusive Mindsets:** Reading literature that champions diverse voices and cultural representations has been linked to fostering inclusive mindsets and minimizing cognitive biases. Exposure to such narratives serves to broaden readers' worldview, enabling them to embrace diverse social dynamics and cultural nuances, thus fostering a mindset conducive to cultural learning and understanding.

5. **Enhanced Cognitive Flexibility and Adaptability:** Literary texts, particularly those that explore multiple perspectives or present narratives with non-linear storytelling, have been associated with heightened cognitive

flexibility. For instance, readers engaged with narratives that present multiple character perspectives or non-linear storylines are compelled to adapt their perspective, fostering cognitive flexibility and adaptability.

By systematically examining these aspects of a literary text, readers can gain a richer understanding of the culture embedded in the narrative, fostering cultural literacy and a more profound appreciation for diverse perspectives.

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