

# The Role of Literature in English Language Teaching: Challenges and Opportunities

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**Abstract:** Literature holds a significant place in the teaching and learning of the English language because it offers authentic language use and rich cultural content. Through engagement with different literary texts, learners can expand their vocabulary, improve their grammar, and develop overall language proficiency. Additionally, literature stimulates learners' critical thinking and creativity, making the learning process more interesting and meaningful. However, the use of literature in English language classrooms is not without difficulties. The complex language often found in literary works can be challenging for many students to understand, which may reduce their motivation to engage with such texts. Furthermore, cultural references in literature may be unfamiliar to learners from diverse backgrounds, creating barriers to comprehension. Curricular limitations and restricted classroom time also limit opportunities for teachers to include literature extensively. Another challenge is that many language teachers may not have adequate training or experience in using literature effectively for language teaching. Nevertheless, despite these challenges, literature presents unique opportunities for enriching English language teaching. It helps develop learners' intercultural awareness and emotional connection to the language. Using adapted literary texts, pre-reading exercises, and multimedia tools can help address comprehension challenges. This research explores these challenges and opportunities by reviewing previous studies and practical teaching methods, aiming to provide strategies that can help teachers incorporate literature more effectively into English language teaching.

**Keywords:** Reading Skills, Language Acquisition, Cultural Awareness, Motivation, Pedagogical Approaches

