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Literary Criticism

Understanding Literary Criticism in Gujarati Literature

DEFINITION

> Literary criticism analyzes and evaluates literary works, focusing on their meaning and significance. It helps readers appreciate and interpret texts more deeply.

KEY CONCEPTS

Types of Criticism

There are various types of literary criticism, including formalist, historical, and feminist approaches.

Critical Theories

Different theories like Marxism, psychoanalysis, and structuralism provide unique lenses to analyze texts.

Textual Analysis

This involves examining the language, structure, and themes of a literary work to uncover deeper meanings.

Contextual Understanding

Understanding the historical and cultural context of a work enhances its interpretation and relevance.

Reader Response

This approach emphasizes the reader's experience and interpretation as a vital part of understanding literature.

EXAMPLES

→ Analyzing a poem's imagery to understand its emotional impact.

→ Evaluating a novel's themes in the context of its historical background.

→ Applying feminist criticism to a classic text to uncover gender biases.

MEMORY TIPS

★ Remember 'CRITIC' for Context, Reader, Interpretation, Text, Insight, and Critique.

★ Use the acronym 'FRESH' for different critical approaches: Formalist, Reader-response, Ethical, Structuralist, Historical.

★ Visualize a magnifying glass for deep analysis of texts.

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Confusing different types of criticism and their focuses.

✗ Neglecting the author's intent and historical context.

✗ Overlooking the importance of personal interpretation in reader response.

QUICK RECAP

Literary criticism enhances our understanding of texts through various analytical approaches. By examining context, structure, and reader responses, we can appreciate literature on a deeper level.