

# UNDERSTANDING PROSE AS A FORM OF LITERATURE

## Abstract

Prose gives an opportunity to learn various skills in a different way. At undergraduate level, the teacher's focus mostly centers on the teaching of prose. In this present article the attempt is made to define the 'Prose' and focus on the types of prose and its purposes. The components of teaching a prose are very important while teaching any text.

**Keywords:** Sections of prose, objectives of the teaching learning, components of teaching a prose.

## Author

**Dr. Ayodhya Kalyan Jadhav**  
Head and Associate Professor  
Department of English  
Saraswati Mandir Night College of  
Commerce and Arts  
Pune, Maharashtra, India.

## I. PRELIMINARY

The word 'Prose' is etymologically derived from the Latin expression 'prosa oratio' which stands for 'literally straight forward discourse or direct speech'. Prose is made of words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs and chapters with cohesion and coherence. It deals with punctuation, grammar and vocabulary. Prose is divided into two types- fiction and nonfiction. Fiction comprise of novels, historical fiction whereas nonfiction includes essays, autobiographies, speeches, journals and articles. The main aim of teaching prose is the development of language. The learner builds the rich vocabulary through the intensive study of a language. The learner uses the language appropriately without any difficulty. A textbook is one of the major tools of teaching English prose in the different courses.

While going through any text, the learner should read thoroughly. Intensive reading deals with detailed study of the text and on the other hand extensive reading is supplementary. Here the chosen text is very important for the teacher and learner because the well planned and well-structured text emphasizes on various language and literary skills. Graham and Harris says: "Teaching lore mainly involves writing practices teachers experienced when they learned to write, instructional practices teachers develop and apply with their students, writing practices they see other teachers apply, and teaching practices promoted by experts" (Graham & Harris, 2014). While writing any piece of literature, one should use five sense and take a deep delve into the related subject.

## II. SECTIONS OF PROSE

Prose includes fiction and non-fiction. Fiction includes novels, mystery, short stories, historical fiction, and narratives. Nonfiction includes essays, autobiographies, speeches, journals and articles. The prose can be divided into the following types according to function:

**Narrative:** Story-telling in chronological order of events, personal experience, accidents and reports. **Argumentative:** Different facts, opinions and arrives at a conclusion. **Descriptive:** Related with the description of persons, places, objects and processes.

## III. ELEMENTS OF PROSE

Prose is organized in paragraphs with important elements of fiction such as plot, character, theme, setting, point of view, style and figures of speech. The text may be a novel or a short story. The teacher can teach the text effectively with the help of these elements.

**Plot-** the sequence of incidents or events, character- persons or figure occur in a work of literature which may be related to factual or imaginary. **Theme-** a central idea, setting – the place of story setting, point of view- a perspective or a particular attitude about any idea, **style-** writer's coining of words for the formation of sentences, **figures of speech-** a word or phrase that has a meaning other than the literal meaning.

**Irony-** saying exactly opposite to what really wants to express. The use of language to show a meaning to its literal interpretation. Irony involves the user to lead to deep thinking. It is an association to something may be a sign. It is the comparison of something to a person or a thing by using words like 'such' to bring clarity in the expression. **Image-** Especially in literary work, visually descriptive or figurative language mainly deal with the immaculate

meaning. A simile is an imaginative comparison of two different things having something in common. It always uses the words 'as' or 'like'. For example- Aditya is as tall as a tree. It is comparison of two different things by using imaginative power. It is use of words or phrases for a thing or person having the same qualities as of another. In this comparison there is no use of words 'as' or 'like'. For example-

- 1) She is a gem of a person.
- 2) Books are our friends.

#### **IV. OBJECTIVES OF TEACHING PROSE**

A textbook is one of the important tools of teaching prose in the hands of a teacher. In fact, teaching prose means teaching reading with comprehension. The four skills learning for the language are necessarily used in prose-teaching. Is the grammar correct? Is the vocabulary the most appropriate? Have the correct pronunciation and capitalization been used? Does the text follow format conventions? (E.g. report)

#### **V. GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF TEACHING PROSE**

Following objectives of teaching prose can lead the learner to enhance the language and interest in literature.

1. To make possible the learners to increase reading and deep understanding of texts.
2. To enlarge and enrich the vocabulary.
3. To enable learners perfect in the use of grammar and language related to its basics.
4. To get an idea of the process of word-building and sample etymology.
5. To know the use various dictionaries and other reference material.
6. To appreciate the role of language as an indispensable tool in acquiring knowledge and in the development of personality and social relationship.
7. To develop an interest in reading.
8. To make learner possibly sound in reading the texts.
9. To help the learners to think imaginatively.
10. To motivate for creative writing.
11. To enable them to write correctly.
12. To make learner acquainted to different aspects of grammar and its applied use.
13. To be able to listen, understand, and give correct answers with confidence and fluency.
14. To be proficient in language study.
15. To make learners efficient to interact with people in actual incidents.
16. To learn about different contexts and cultures.
17. To encourage them to get the information and pleasure.
18. To develop the personality of learners to make them good citizen.

#### **VI. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF TEACHING PROSE**

The age of a learner, the class of a learner and subject matter are some factors which decide the particular objectives of the teaching of prose. So the difference forms of prose lead to study the objectives of prose teaching.

## **Expressive**

1. To acquaint the learners with the style of the writer.
2. To enable the learners to understand the beginning, middle, and end.
3. To acquire a good range of vocabulary.
4. To develop the power of imagination.

Expressive writing is an intentional work and not a natural way. It can be a fictional story, personal narrative or memoir with details. Sometimes exaggerated words, phrases make the text interesting one. It is important to note that the hard-earned knowledge helps to build the sound knowledge about writing skill.

## **Story**

1. To introduce various characters.
2. To teach a moral lesson.
3. To inculcate the good values.
4. To shape their characters.
5. To develop the art and style of storytelling.
6. To create interest in story reading.
7. To enable them to compose short interesting stories.

R. K. Narayan, Anton Chekhov, O. Henry, Oscar Wilde and many more have contributed the stories in the field of literature. Everyone has the different cultural and historical background and relevance of the text. Therefore, the learner can explore new words, critical thinking and understand the author's content.

## **Essay**

In form it may be narrative, descriptive or expository. It may vary in length; it may be serious or trivial, earnest or ironical, sentimental or satirical. The subject may be trifling or sublime, it may be about Bunyan or the Horizon, or about Railway Labels or Schoolboy Howlers. "The essay should lay him (Reader) under a spell with its first word, and he should awake refreshed, only with its last. In the interval he may pass through the more varying experience of amusement, surprise, interest, indignation; he may soar to the heights of fantasy...or plunge to the depths of wisdom...but he must never be roused". Plato's 'Republic', Aristotle's 'Poetics', Lonjoyan's 'On the Sublime', Horace's 'Ours Poetica' are the good examples of essays. One can find the following objectives from the essays.

To get the information.

1. To develop the imaginative power.
2. To think critically.
3. To make learners aware to bring creativity in their writing.
4. To enable the learners to arrange the ideas in a systematic way.
5. To be able to use rich vocabulary.

## Play

1. To introduce the various characters.
2. To make aware of dialogues and the usage of language in a natural way.
3. To inspire learners to perform various roles.
4. To develop accent, pronunciation of words, intonations etc.
5. To build their character.

## Biography

1. To arouse the curiosity about great people.
2. To make learners familiar with the famous writer's and their works.
3. To present various characters.
4. To set a role model in front of the learner.
5. To lead the learners to become a perfect person.

One can learn how to write the biographies and develop writing, thinking. Compare similarities and differences of human beings and get a moral lesson.

## Autobiography

1. To set a good example of writing an autobiography.
2. To the details of the person's personal and professional life
3. To become an ideal person
4. To learn how to write

Autobiography always inspires and motivates the persons. A few persons write the things without hiding any part of their lives, but some persons do not write straightforwardly due to many more reasons. Mahatma Gandhi, Veer Savarkar, APJ Abdul Kalam and so on have penned down their autobiographies and become the source of inspiration to many citizens. Of Course, their autobiographies strengthen the wide range of topics like patriotism and leadership.

## VII. THE COMPONENTS OF TEACHING A PROSE

- 1. Motivation:** The teacher must motivate the learners by asking different questions, telling anecdotes, some quotes at the beginning of the teaching a text. The background knowledge of the learner can lead them to understand the given text. Therefore, the teacher must use the innovative teaching strategies for teaching the prose. To attract the attention of learners, the teacher can use different teaching aids such as flash cards, model, charts, posters, material aids to arouse the curiosity and interest about the prose among the learners. With the use of technology, teacher can teach effectively. The learners become active during the teaching-learning process.
- 2. Presentation:** This is the important and lengthiest part of teaching a text.

**Teacher's Role in Reading:** The teacher should read out the material loudly giving emphasis on pronunciation, accent, intonation, stress, rhythm, style etc. Teacher provides proper guidance and direction.

**Loud Reading by the Learners:** After teacher's loud reading, the learners are asked to read loudly one by one. Here the learners get an opportunity to read the given text with correct tone, accent and pronunciation. If they make any mistakes, the teacher can correct. The teacher plays a very crucial role as a guide. Therefore, the learners get the mastery on language through loud reading. The learners read the text with confidence and without any hesitation. The weak learners may overcome from their phobia and fear of speaking. They get the mouth practice so that they use the language in their own way. In this way, teacher guides them in right path of learning.

**Perfect Vocabulary Use:** The teacher explains the meaning of difficult words, phrases, idioms, sentence construction and other grammatical items for the better understanding. So that learners use these items carefully and correctly in their day-to-day conversation.

**Silent Reading by the Learners:** The learner reads silently without the movement of lips. This type of reading helps them to concentrate much more on comprehension.

3. **Recapitulation:** The teacher tells some important point to remember and clarify the learner's queries.
4. **Assessment:** The main objective of assessment is to test the learners whether they understood the given text or not. By asking the questions a teacher can assess the learners. At the end of teaching to calculate their acquisition. The evaluation can be done through assignments, questions, blackboard work, dramatization etc.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

Teaching of prose as a form of literature has dealt with a deeper understanding of any text. The types of prose and its objectives advocate the various skills. It inculcates the moral lessons in the mind of learner with enjoyment. The designed pedagogy also plays a pivotal part while teaching the prose. The components of teaching a prose are also discussed in the present article that helps to understand the text.

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