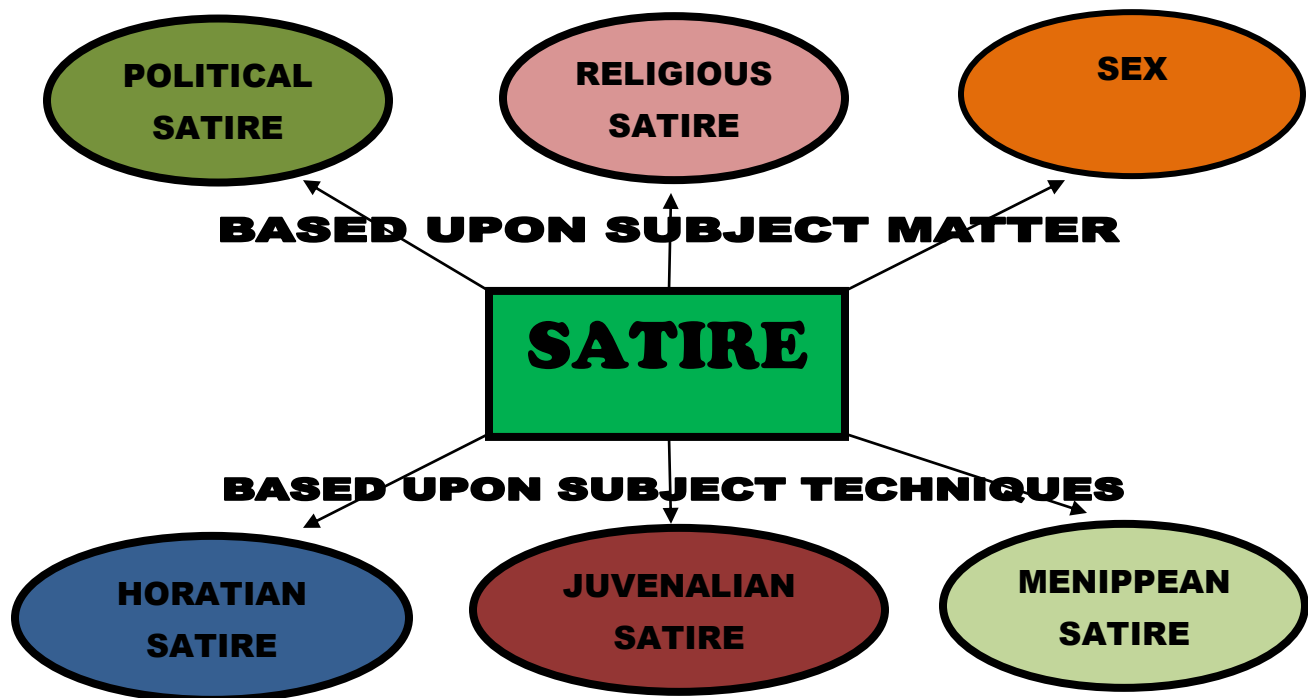


SATIRE

Satire is the age old weapon in the hands of witty individuals. It carries positive and negative consequences at the same time. It checks follies, vices, abuses and shortcomings by ridiculing them and shames individuals, corporations, governments or societies. It is very irritating to the victim hence much effective than any artistic conversation. Actually it has some kind of pricking quality. It targets to do insult before public for some faults, ill ideas, or harmful policies of government and of corporate. Drawing shame it attacks heart or conscience. With all these purposes another main important purpose is to create fun and humour and amusements. Wit is the main ingredient of it.

The word 'satire' is derived from the original Latin word 'satura' which means medley. It is applied to only Roman verse satire, a genre. It has also origin in Greek term 'satyros'. Later on it is modified in 'satyre' and then in English and it's wider sense becomes narrower i.e. humorously ridicule.



There are three types of satires in English literature generally. Horatian satire is best popular of them. It is named after Roman satirist Horace. It light heartedly criticizes some social practice or general follies of human beings. Horace used to try to expose the prevailing opinions and age old philosophical beliefs of ancient Rome and Greece with fresh humour. It avoids any sort of attack or negativity. Rather it concentrates on gentle wit, exaggeration and self revealing conversation. Alexander Pope's 'The Rape of The Lock' may clear the concept. It satirizes in different points only the conventional social practices of young boys and girls of the aristocratic families. His target was to create



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humour with social vices not the individuals. Then we may take another example of Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice' in which the author tried to expose the way of marriage and relationships. Both are prevailing practice of the age. Therefore Horatian satire is the mildest gentlest form of satire which humorously highlights social and human follies not with the purpose of change but to create amusement.

Unlike the Horatian satire Juvenalian satire is contemptuous and abrasive. It is named after Roman satirist Juvenal of 1st century A.D. It attacks public figures, governments and social structure which Juvenal used to do. He took them as his opponent and used this weapon of satire to ridicule harshly. He attempted to change this social structure which was not only wrong but also evil to him. He attacked government and its officials together for their drawbacks. Therefore Juvenalian satire criticized this evil with the zeal of scorn, outrage, and savage ridicule. As it sees this social structure and government are harmful, it's goal is to jeopardize their reputation and power by exaggerating their words or position. Jonathan Swift's 'Gulliver's Travel' is an example of this type of satire. Being largely influenced by Juvenalian techniques he exposed the dark absurdity and hypocrisy of politics and religion. 'Lord of the Flies' Golding is another important example of it. In this novel Golding attacks Government and its practices. Therefore Juvenalian satire is characterized by irony, sarcasm, moral indignation, and personal invectiveness. It lays little importance on humour or amusement. On contrary it's sole purpose is to attack and subvert the opponent.

Menippean satire unlike the Horatian and Juvenalian satire attacks individual character flaw or some particular attitude. It attempts mildly to prick a particular human fault. It is characterized by aggressiveness and arrogance. It targets to buffoon simply a viewpoint or attitude of a human being. It is cheerful and full of amusement like Horatian satire but not so much abrasive and contemptuous like Juvenalian satire. Rather it deals with a specific mental drawbacks or an inherent personality foible. Moreover it draws a judgment of this personal flaw from moral dimension arousing sympathy. As for example we may take Lewis Carroll's 'Alice in Wonderland'. Therefore it contains humour gentle like Horatian and arrogance and indignation like Juvenalian. Menippean satire is also named after Greek satirist Menippean.

According to the subject matter with which it deals; satire is also classified into political satire, religious satire, and sex. Actually society and it's practices are the hottest topic to the author always. So politics is the most popular subject to the satirists. Political satire targets the clergy while religious satire targets religious beliefs and satire on sex is associated with blue comedy, off-color humour and dick jokes.

Now we may round up our brief discussion on satire that it is and was a most popular literary genre which is a sword to the hand of the intellectuals to cut the society and it's officials corrupted. Whenever practices become oppressive and harmful, to criticize it is the medium of expression of that disgust. Frequently it exposes the dark side of the follies of individuals and religious and politics over all.

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