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ARCHAIC WORD USAGE IN ENGLISH LITERARY WORKS

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**Abstract**

Prose as a form of literary work is a form of writing both fiction and nonfiction with certain elements and characteristics. The study aims to assess the use of archaic words in English prose literary works. Archaic words refer to ancient words whose use is no longer common today. The research uses a descriptive method that comprehensively reviews the use of archaic words in English prose literary works. Generally, the use of archaic words in English prose literary works can be found in medieval English literary works. The use of archaic words in English literary works is still preserved until today with the aim of providing color and sharpening the meaning of the words of a prose to the reader.

**Keywords: Prose, Archaic, Diction**

**INTRODUCTION**

Literature as a branch of art which is an integral element of culture is quite old. Literature has been part of the human experience for a long time, both from the human aspect as the creator and the human aspect as the audience. For humans as creators of literary works, in this case authors in written literature and handlers or solace in oral literature, literary works are an outpouring of their inner experiences about the phenomena of social and cultural life of the people of their time. It is also an expression of events, ideas, notions, and the values of life that are mandated in it. Literature questions man in all aspects of his life so that the work is useful for getting to know man and his culture in a certain period of time. For you and others as connoisseurs of literary works, since the past, Indonesian society has been colored with forms of literary works in their lives. They have used mantras, rhymes, fairy tales, ballads and myths in their daily lives. For example, if people experience life disruptions, such as someone getting sick, crops not becoming due to many plant pests,

long droughts, and other events that complicate life, they ask the handler to convey the mantra to overcome these difficulties. Tales, legends and myths are used to send children or grandchildren to sleep.

In social intercourse, various types of rhymes are used to give advice, entertainment or to pour out one's heart. On the other hand, the pelipur lara entertains the community by reciting stories as an amusement to unwind after they have worked hard during the day in the rice fields and in the fields. Through their encounters with literature, literature lovers can gain an awareness of the meaning of life. From it is gained a deep knowledge of man, the world, and life. Furthermore, modern literature also plays a dual role in people's lives. Besides being used as a tool for entertainment and leisure, it also serves as a conveyor of ideological missions, as an educational tool, and even as a propaganda tool.

In the world of literature, many interesting works are born to be studied and even studied. Literature is a social institution that uses the medium of language. Literary



works are born through the creator himself, namely the author. The work is the result of imagination and thought that develops and then poured into a story. With high imagination, valuable literary works are created. The beauty or aesthetics of a literary work can be seen in terms of the use of language. Literary material is language that has meaning. Language is an arbitrary system of sound symbols used by members of a society to cooperate, interact, and identify themselves. Language functions as a conduit of imagination between writers and literary works. Most of the language used in a literary work is ambiguous or multi-interpretive to produce high aesthetic value. Thus, literary language does not only refer to something, or only relate to a designated thing, or denotative language.

Literary language has an expressive function, showing the tone and attitude of the speaker or writer. Literary language tries to influence, persuade, and ultimately change the attitude of the reader. So the meaning of language in a literary work needs to be read repeatedly and then understand it. Since the medium used by the author is language, the introduction to language will definitely reveal things that help us interpret the meaning of a literary work or its parts to further understand and enjoy it. This study is called stylistic study. This study shows the relevance of linguistics to the study of literature. Stylistics can explain the complex interaction between form and meaning that often escapes the attention and observation of literary critics.

In the world of literature, there are many types of literary works that can be enjoyed by readers. Among them are novels, short stories (short stories), poetry, drama, and movies. One of the literary works around us is the novel. Novels are one of the literary works that are usually enjoyed by the general public. This is due to the content contained in it. Novels generally have different language styles depending on the author who created them. There are authors who use a language style that

is quite complicated and then difficult to understand and there are also those who are very simple so that it is very easy to understand. However, the language style found in novels is not as complicated as the language style found in poetry. An author's style is only visible when he has written many works. The beginning of an author is still looking for his style, sometimes imitating the style of other authors. Experienced authors will have their own style. Word choice is also needed to be able to give a deep impression and message to a literary work.

The meaning of word choice or diction goes far further than what the link between the words suggests. This term comprises phraseology, linguistic style, and expression in addition to describing the words that are employed to convey a concept or idea. When choosing a word for a piece of writing, an author does more than simply pick one; they also choose a number of things to go along with it. Where, when, and for what reason should the word be used are all covered here. If the author's intended aim or message can be understood, all of this is meant to add a style or color to grab the reader's attention. Ideas that are poured out, both in written and oral form require a wide vocabulary, but not just entering the vocabulary that is owned in writing. The capacity to discern precisely the nuances of meaning in accordance with the concepts one wants to portray through language is known as diction or word choice. This ability should be adjusted to the context, the taste standards of the listeners or readers, and other factors. Diction or word choice always reflects the listener's or reader's sense of value in terms of taste, situational appropriateness, and accuracy of meaning..

There are three main conclusions regarding diction, namely, a. word choice or diction includes an understanding of which words will be used to convey an idea, how to form the right grouping of words or use the right expressions, and which style is best used in the situation. b. word choice or diction is the ability to distinguish precisely the nuances of



the meaning of the idea to be conveyed, and the ability to find a form that is appropriate (suitable) to the situation and the taste values of the listening community. c. the right and appropriate choice of words is only possible by mastering a large number of vocabulary or vocabulary of the language. Meanwhile, what is meant by the vocabulary or vocabulary of a language is all the words owned by a language. Diction can also be understood as the selection of words to express ideas or ideas and feelings. There is a difference between the terms word selection and word choice. Word selection is the process or action of choosing words that can express ideas appropriately, while word choice is the result of the process or action. Therefore, it can be concluded that what is meant by diction is the selection of words and the use of words appropriately with ideas or ideas to represent thoughts and feelings that want to be conveyed to others and expressed in a sentence pattern both orally and in writing to create its own function or effect for the reader.

One of the works of English literature that uses many archaisms is prose. Prose in the literary sense is called fiction, narrative text or narrative discourse. The term fiction in this sense means a fictional story or imaginary story. Fiction tells or depicts life, both physical and psychological, physical and spiritual. Fiction recounts the problems of life in its interaction with its own environment, as well as with God. Fiction is the result of the author's dialog, contemplation, and reaction to the environment and life. Although it is imaginary, fiction results from the author's conscious contemplation of the nature of life and living.

According to The American College Dictionary a novel is a fictitious prose story of a certain length, which describes the characters, movements and scenes of representative real life in a plot or a rather chaotic and tangled situation. Nowadays, the terms novella and novele have the same meaning as the Indonesian term "Novellet". According to Abrams (in Nurgiantoro, 2010:9), a novellet is

a literary work that is not too long, but also not too short. According to Watt [1] a novel is a variety of literature that provides a picture of human experience, human culture, which is arranged based on events, character behavior, time and plot, atmosphere and setting. Considering the definition of a novel above, it can be stated that a novel is a literary work that reveals the side of life of the actors and the story in the novel does not have to be long.

Prose in literature is often referred to as fiction. The word prose is taken from English, namely prose. Prose or fiction means a narrative work that tells something that is fictional, imaginary, not based on reality or can also mean a reality that is born based on fantasy. Fiction is a fictional story, a story that has characters, behavior, and plot produced by imagination. When talking about fiction, the context is reminiscent of literary works. Conversely, when talking about literary works, the context will lead to a literary work that is fictional. In general, prose/fiction means a fictional story whose storytelling has aspects of character, plot, theme, and center of storytelling, all of which are produced by the author's imagination. Muliadi says that fiction or prose is "one type of literary genre, in addition to other genres. Other genres that are meant are poetry and drama. Prose includes literary works called short stories, perbers, and novels".

Literary works are imaginative works that have a close relationship with things outside the literary work. Historical and environmental factors shape literary works, because literary works are written by authors as members of society who take ideas from events that occur in society itself. Good literature is literature that reflects the principles of humanity [2]. Of course this is in line with moral interests, human literary activities must be lived by the intellectual spirit. Literary works are one of the products of art. Some also refer to it as a work of fiction. Fiction is often also called a fictional story, which is a story in prose, which is the



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result of the author's processing based on his views, interpretations, and judgments about events that have occurred or processing about events that only take place in his imagination.

The imagination contained in literary works always obeys subjective tendencies, aspirations, and personal opinions when responding to objects outside itself, so that the expression of the work works on the basis of the power of intuition and imagination, and the power to absorb social reality. Literary works, especially fictional prose, always originate from the environment of life, witnessed, heard, and read by the author. The characteristics of fictional prose are that the language is decomposed, can expand knowledge and increase knowledge, especially imaginative experience. Fictional prose can convey information about an event in life. Because imagination and reality are inextricably linked and because reality and imagination cannot be separated, creative reality is depicted in fictional writing. By putting a focus on the use of connotative terms, the language is more oriented toward figurative language. Furthermore, because it allows individual interpretations based on imagination, fictional language encourages reflection.

Given that these literary works have been composed for a long time, it is not uncommon to find the use of archaic diction. Archaism is derived from Greek, meaning "from an earlier time and no longer used or something that has ancient or antique characteristics. Something in linguistics that is old and out of use is often called "archaism". Archaic is something related to the past or ancient and not commonly used anymore (outdated), while archaism is the use of archaic words or word forms. Archaisms are words that are no longer used and are outdated or archaic, and archaisms are the use of words or word forms that are no longer common. Archaism or archaic language is language that is used because of the elements of the past that still survive (archaisms). The use of archaic language is intended to give a style or color to

attract the attention of readers or listeners, provided that the intent or message that the author wants to convey can be conveyed and adjusted to the situation and taste values of a group of readers so as not to spoil the atmosphere or offend people who are not present [3].

The characteristics of archaic diction are past tense, rarely used, and sacred. The use of archaic diction is no longer or rarely used in everyday life. The use of archaic diction is often found in Padhalangan art which has the purpose of making the reader or listener feel reluctant and not offending the reader or listener. Word choice or diction is a simple matter. Someone who has a lot of ideas sometimes finds it difficult to come up with ideas because of their limited vocabulary. There are some people who are rich in vocabulary so that they are able to express their ideas, but their ideas or ideas are difficult to accept by others. This is because the choice of words is inappropriate and inappropriate. The accuracy of word choice questions the ability of a word to generate the right ideas in the imagination of the reader or listener, just as the writer feels (Keraf, 2008: 81). The placement and use of words in literary works is done carefully and thoroughly and more precisely.

## **METHOD**

This research is included in descriptive research. Descriptive research is research that is carried out only based on existing facts or phenomena that are empirically alive in the speakers, so that what is produced or recorded is in the form of language statements which are usually said to be like a portrait, exposure as it is. This type of research studies problems in society and procedures that apply in society and certain situations, including relationships, activities, attitudes, views and ongoing protests and influences on phenomena. The purpose of descriptive research is to understand the subject of research, however, researchers must have conceptual foundations to make interpretations.



This research aims to describe the types of archaic diction and describe the function of archaic diction in English literary works in the form of prose.

To obtain complete information in accordance with the focus of the research, observation and documentation techniques were used to collect data. Observation is the most basic method. In this study, the researcher observed the language variation in prose in order to obtain the desired results. Documentation technique contained in this research is in the form of language variation in prose that uses archaic diction and categorizes it into several parts according to the language variation that occurs. In addition, the researcher also searched for data on matters related to this research through the internet and books. This data collection is intended to facilitate the process of data analysis so that an understanding and understanding can be obtained in accordance with the problem under study. Data analysis is used to prove or obtain research results, namely achieving predetermined research objectives. Data analysis in this study used descriptive analysis techniques.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Prose has a broad meaning because it includes a variety of writings. Therefore, it is necessary to distinguish between fictional prose and nonfictional prose. Fiction, as stated above, can be defined as a made-up story. However, in reality, not all works that contain elements of fabrication are called works of fiction. Nowadays, the term fiction refers more to works in the form of narrative prose/narrative texts. Other works, such as drama and poetry, are generally not referred to as works of fiction [4]. They are seen as different genres although there is no denying that both contain elements of fabrication. Prose fiction refers to works in the form of novels and short stories. Both have differences and similarities. The difference can be seen in terms of formality, the length of the

story. A long story, say hundreds of pages, cannot be called a short story, but rather a novel. Short stories, as the name implies, are short stories. Short stories vary in length. Novels and short stories as works of fiction have similarities. Both are built by the same building blocks. Both are built from two elements, namely intrinsic and extrinsic elements.

Novels and short stories both have elements of events, plot, theme, characters, setting, point of view, and others. Therefore, novels and short stories can be analyzed using the same approach. However, there are differences in intensity (as well as quantity) in terms of the "operation" of the story elements in both. Novel elements such as plot, theme, characterization, and setting can generally be said to be more detailed and complex than short story elements. Prose fiction refers to works in the form of novels and short stories. Both have differences and similarities. The difference can be seen in terms of formality, the length of the story. A long story, say hundreds of pages, cannot be called a short story, but rather a novel. Short stories, as the name implies, are short stories. Short stories vary in length.

Literary works are human personal expressions in the form of experiences of thoughts, feelings, ideas, passion, beliefs in a concrete form of real images that evoke charm by using language. As for the various opinions about the various types of literary works, Aristotle divided them into two types of literature, namely stories and dramas. After that, people usually added one more type, namely the type of poetry. The literary community then followed these three types of literature, so that in the world of literary creation, poetry, drama, and narrative (which includes novels or romances and short stories, as well as novelettes) and prose are known [2].

The word prose is derived from the English prose. This word actually refers to a broader sense, not only covering writings that are classified as literary works, but also non-



fiction works, such as articles, essays, and so on. Muliadi (2017:1) says that fiction or prose "is one type of literary genre, in addition to other genres. Other genres that are meant are poetry and drama. Prose includes literary works called, short stories, perbers, and novels". In general, prose / fiction means a fictional story whose storytelling has aspects of character, plot, theme, and center of storytelling, all of which are produced by the author's imagination. The term prose fiction or simply called works of fiction, is usually also called prose stories, prose narratives, narratives, or plotted stories [5].

The definition of fictional prose is a story or story carried by certain actors with their roles, settings and certain stages and series of stories that depart from the results of the author's imagination so as to weave a story. Prose in the literary sense is also called fiction, narrative text or narrative discourse. So the term prose or fiction or narrative text, or narrative discourse means a fictional story (cerkan) or a fictional story. Fiction is a narrative work whose content does not suggest (does not refer) to historical truth. The term fiction is often used in opposition to reality (something that really exists and happens in the real world so that its truth can be proven by empirical data). Whether or not something stated in a work is true, whether or not it exists, and whether or not it can be proven empirically is, among other things, what distinguishes a work of fiction from a work of nonfiction. The characters, events, and places mentioned in fiction are imaginative, while those in nonfiction are factual. Prose Prose is a free composition that is not bound by the number of lines, the number of syllables, in each line and is not bound by rhythm and rhyme as in poetry. Prose differs from poetry in that it has a greater variety of rhythms, and its language is more in line with its lexical meaning [6].

The word prose comes from the Latin "*prose*" which means "straightforward". Prose writing is usually used to describe a fact or idea.

Hence, prose can be used for newspapers, magazines, novels, encyclopedias, letters, as well as various other types of media. Prose is also sometimes referred to as "fluency". Literary works can be divided into prose, poetry and drama. Fictional literary works or commonly called fictional stories, are one type of literary work that varies from prose. The definition of fictional prose according to Aminuddin in Djuanda and Iswara (2006: 158) is "a story or story carried by certain actors with a certain cast, setting and stages and series of stories that depart from the results of the author's imagination so as to weave a story".

### 1. Types of Prose

In the world of literature, prose is known as one of the literary genres in addition to other genres. The existence of the prose genre is often contrasted with the poetry genre, although the contradiction itself is only theoretical. In certain respects, the distinction is blurred. In terms of language, for example, there is poetry language that is similar to prose language, while there is also prose language that is as poetic as poetry language. In terms of the form of writing, there are also poems that are written like prose. However, when dealing with certain literary works, which may be prose or poetry, it is often easy to recognize them as prose or poetry just by looking at the conventions of writing [7].

Prose in a broad sense encompasses a wide range of written works written in prose. So, it is not only limited to writings that are classified as literary works, but also various nonfiction works including news writing in newspapers. In this paper, the term and definition of prose is limited to prose as one of the literary genres. Prose in the literary sense is called fiction, narrative text or narrative discourse. The term fiction in this sense means a fictional story or imaginary story. This is because fiction is a narrative text whose content does not refer to the truth. Fiction tells something that is fictional, something that does not exist and something that does not really happen so there is no need to look for the truth



in the real world. Although it is a work of fiction, it cannot be dismissed as a mere product of an author's daydream. The author in this case conducts intense appreciation and contemplation, contemplation of the nature of life and life, contemplation that is carried out with full awareness and responsibility. Fiction is an imaginative work based on awareness and responsibility in terms of creativity as a work of art. Prose comes in a variety of types, including:

- Modern Prose Included in modern prose are [4]:
  - o Short story/ short story, is a short prose story.
  - o Novelette, is a story that is longer than a short story, but shorter than a novel.
  - o Novel/roman, is a prose story that presents complex problems, with a broader and more detailed depiction of its elements. A novel is a type of prose genre that is essentially a form of long story. Novels are longer and more complex than short stories, and are not restricted by the structural and metrical limitations of plays or rhymes. Novels are a prose genre that features the most complete story elements, has a wide range of media, and also presents the most extensive societal problems. In general, a novel tells the story of characters and their behavior in everyday life.
  - o Children's story, is a story that covers a diverse age range of readers, ranging from 3-5 years old, 6-9 years old, and 10-12 years old (even 13 and 14 years old).
  - o Juvenile novel (chicklit and teenlit), is a novel written for teenagers. Children's stories are stories that cover a wide age range of readers, from 3-5 years old, 6-9 years old, and 10-12 years old (even 13 and 14) years old.
  - o Teen novels (chicklit and teenlit) are novels written for the teenage reader segment.

- Old prose Included in old prose are:

- o Fairy tales, are stories that are entirely the result of the author's imagination or imagination where what is told has never happened.
- o Fables are fictional stories about animals and are performed or the animal actors are treated like humans. Example: The Frogs & the Ox, Belling the Cat, The Town Mouse & the Country Mouse
- o Sage, is a story, either historical, or a fictional romance story, which is read for solace, to raise morale, or just to enliven a party. Examples; Robin Hood
- o Legends are tales about a natural event, the origin of a place, object, or event in a place or region. Example: Origin of Continental Europe, Legend of the Themes River, and others
- o Mite is a story that contains and historical background or things that have been believed by many people that the story has happened and contains supernatural things and extraordinary powers. Example: Greek Mythology, Loch Ness Monster Sightings.
- o Heart-stirring Stories, often also termed noodlehead stories because they are found in almost all folk cultures. These stories contain elements of comedy (cuteness), nonsense, absurdity, stupidity and foolishness, but usually contain elements of criticism of human / community behavior. Examples are the story of The Red Riding Hood, The Three Pig Brothers, and Hansel and Grethel.
- o Parable stories are fairy tales that contain allusions or similes that contain advice and are educational in nature. For example, a stingy person will be advised by the story of the Boy Who Cried Wolf.

## 2. Use of Archaic Words in English Prose

Language in literary works is more likely to be connotative. Literary works often use words with connotations in order to beautify the



literary work. The use of words with connotations in addition to beautifying will also enrich and channel meaning well. So connotation is subjective in the sense that there is a shift from the general meaning (denotative) because there has been an addition of certain flavors and taste values [8]. The meaning of connotation is highly dependent on the context. The use of connotative and ambiguous language will make it difficult for readers to understand the ideas that the author wants to convey. In connection with the above, it is necessary to know about stylistics. Stylistics examines how writers manipulate the elements and rules contained in language and what functions are caused in its use. Stylistics is the study of literary works centered on the use of language.

The object of stylistic study is existing literary works. Carefully chosen words, word strings, and word pairs can cause the desired effect on the reader, for example accentuating certain parts (foregrounding) in literary works [9]. The purpose of foregrounding is to give an emphasis or form of attention to events, occurrences, or to a character in the literary work. The formal form of fiction is words and words. Short stories as works of fiction are works that present the world in words, which are formed from sentence after sentence, a series of sentences forming a paragraph and a series of paragraphs forming an essay. The words used will give meaning to the idea or ideas to be conveyed. Readers can enjoy the diction created by the author.

The function of diction is that it can cause a response in the reader's mind because there is another meaning that appears behind the word [10]. The function of diction is to create beauty concerning the aspects of form as created by the speaker, and to present an atmosphere picture. Various opinions regarding the function of diction selection in literary works as stated above, it can be concluded that there are ten functions of diction selection in the collection of *cerkak*, namely:

1. to accentuate certain parts (foregrounding) of a work, this form of protrusion can be in the form of characters, settings, and circumstances in a literary work,
2. to clarify the meaning and liven up the sentence,
3. to create beauty regarding the aspect of form as created by the speaker,
4. to create a religious impression,
5. to create the impression of exaggerating the situation
6. to present an atmosphere picture,
7. to create the impression of animating the description,
8. to create a rough impression,
9. to concretize the picture,
10. to curse others as a witness to their emotions.

Diction doesn't just mean choosing words. The definition is much broader than that. This term is not only used to state which words need to be used to express an idea or tell an event, but also includes stylistic issues, expressions and so on. There are several things that must be considered in order for word utilization efforts to be successful, namely as follows.

- 1) The author must choose the right words to express the ideas or things that will be mandated. The choice of words is said to be appropriate if the word is able to generate the right ideas in the reader's imagination, as the author thinks or feels.
- 2) To choose words correctly, the author must have the ability to distinguish precisely the nuances of meaning in accordance with the ideas to be conveyed and the ability to find a form that suits the situation and the taste of the readers.
- 3) The choice of words that is appropriate to the language is only possible if the author has mastered a large number of vocabulary owned by the language community, and is also able to mobilize and utilize this wealth into clear and effective sentence networks to convey a series of thoughts and feelings.





A word is the smallest unit obtained after a sentence is divided into its parts, and contains an idea. The word is the smallest unit that is able to stand alone and is understood both in meaning and how it is used. In writing hikayat, the words used still contain archaism elements. According to Soekanto (1985:72) archaism or archaism are elements of the past that still survive. Archaism is something related to the past or characterized by antiquity and is not commonly used anymore (out of date), while archaism is the use of archaic words or word forms. Based on the opinions presented above, it can be concluded that archaic words are words commonly used in the past that have meanings or forms according to the context at that time and are rarely or never used in the present.

Archaisms are language elements that are unusual but used for certain effects that sometimes appear in the current language. Archaism is something related to the past or characterized by ancient and not commonly used anymore (out of date), while archaism is the use of words or word forms that are archaism. Archaism or archaism are elements of the past that still survive. The use of archaic language is intended to give a style or color to attract the attention of readers or listeners, provided that the purpose or message that the author wants to convey can be conveyed and adjusted to the situation and taste values of a group of readers so as not to spoil the atmosphere or offend people who are not present. Meanwhile, archaic are words that are no longer used and out of date or ancient, and archaism is the use of words or word forms that are no longer common. Archaism as an adherent of archaism (ancient) which is flexible or unpretentious but easy to understand and archaism is the teaching of using words or sentences in a conservative (old words for certain purposes) or primitive manner [11]. Based on several opinions about the definition of archaisms that have been presented, it can be concluded that archaisms are words in the past

that have survived but are rarely used today. Some examples of archaic words are as follows.

Table 1

No	Word	Meaning
1	Apothecary	This used to be the word for a pharmacist
2	Quoth	Said; Quote
3	Wench	A girl or a young woman.
4	Virtue	A synonym for female virginity.
5	Bethink	To remember

Every word has a meaning relationship or semantic relationship between a word or other language unit and another word or language unit. This relationship between meanings is called synonymy or word equivalence. Synonymy comes from Ancient Greek; *onoma* = name and *syn* = with). Synonyms are forms of language that have similar or the same meaning as other forms. The equation applies to words, groups of words, or sentences although the synonymy generally occurs in words. Two or more words that are the same or almost the same are called synonyms. Based on several opinions that have been presented, it can be concluded that synonym or word equivalent is a word that has a different form but has the same meaning as another word. A synonym is an expression (usually a word, but can be a phrase, , or even a sentence) that has the same meaning as another expression.

Historically, prose in English literature dates back to the medieval era of old England. Old English prose works were pioneered by Aldhelm, Bede, and Alcuin. Their works were written in Latin which was translated into English in the 9th century and the translation was spearheaded by King Alfred who ruled the West Saxons between 871 and 906. This massive translation effort was aimed at restoring the culture of the English nation which was destroyed by the relentless attacks by the Scandinavians [11].



Old English writers used many archaic words. For example, Aldhelm (650-709) was a scholar who graduated from Canterbury school, and had studied with Abbot Haderian, an African priest, and Theodore, a Greek priest. Besides writing prose, Aldhelm was also known as a poet, and was well acquainted with the classical Latin poets and the scriptures. In his writings both prose and poetry, Aldhelm uses a lot of figurative language such as imagery, metaphors, allusions, and so on. For example, the golden necklace of virtues, the white jewels of merit, the purple flowers of modesty, the swanlike whiteness of old age, the opening of the gate of dumb silence, the shining lamps of chastity in which the oil of modesty burns. The examples above are metaphorical language because Aldhelm compares two different things or ideas: the necklace is compared to virtues, the jewel to merit, the purple flowers to modesty, the swanlike whiteness to old age, and so on.

The Venerable Bede was a prose author from Northumbria as well (672-735). Bede of Angle descent was raised in Wearmouth Abbey and spent his adolescent years in the monastery at Jarrow. In his day, he was a master of Christian theology and history. He learned about and assimilated a lot of European culture. His major works, including a treatise on spells, a science of chronology of the Christian centuries based on astronomical studies, martyrology, a history of the prelates at Wearmouth and Jarrow, a history of Saint Cuthbert, and the Ecclesiastical History of Angles, reflect his wide range of knowledge and interests. Bede's most interesting works are those of history and biography. His writings are based on a love of truth and in-depth document research. Bede's conception and writing style are impersonal, clear, and simple; and what really stands out is his level of intelligence. His book Ecclesiastical History was the best work of its time. It was written from a religious point of view, during the period between the triumph of Julius Caesar and the year 731, which was

four years before Bede died. The main themes of the book include conversion and the power struggle between Rome and Ireland, which was eventually won by the Roman church.

The next proselytizer was Alcuin (730-804) who also came from Northumbria and grew up in York. He collaborated with Charlemagne known as Charles the Great or Charles I (A. D. 742 - 814), a Frankish king (768 - 814). The Franks were one of the Germanic tribes in the Rhine area at the beginning of the Christian era (in Old English Franca; Middle English Franc). Alcuin left his country when the ancient civilization of the Angle tribe was about to become extinct due to the invasion of the Danish people who destroyed monasteries and centers of study.

The use of archaic words in English absorbs a lot from French. French became the language of the upper class (rulers), and also the official language of the government. English was enriched with thousands of French words. The most famous type of literature in the Middle Ages was "romance". The characteristics of French and Anglo-Norman literature include a variety of rhyme forms, a bright and simple style of language expression, and always a bright atmosphere. These characteristics are not found in Old English literature, which is always gloomy, has a heavy and complicated language style, and whose rhyme forms are limited to alliteration. These characteristics of Old English literature can hardly be found in Middle English literature, but on the contrary, the French traits mentioned above can be seen in Middle English works, especially those of Geoffrey Chaucer. The literature of the late Middle Ages can be said to belong to Chaucer or the Age of Chaucer.

One example of medieval English prose is John Wyclif. He was a professor at Oxford University and a church figure. He was the first to criticize the authority of the Roman church. According to Wyclif, everyone had the right to study scripture for themselves. In the Middle Ages, only the clergy could read the gospels, as



they were still written in Latin. Wyclif rejected the doctrines of the Church and also criticized the church bureaucracy (Pope-Cardinal-Bishop-Priest). Wyclif's influence was strong and he had a large following among Oxford teachers and students. Since Wyclif's movement was banned by Edward III and the ban was continued during the reign of Henry IV, Wyclif's movement turned into an evangelical movement carried out secretly by his followers known as Lollards who mostly moved among the commoners. In the field of literature, Wyclif was known as a translator of scripture. His translations were spread throughout England and were instrumental in establishing a standard English language to replace the various dialects. Another prose work is the *Historia Regum Britanniae* by Geoffrey Monmouth (1100-1154). The book containing the history of the English kings was written in Latin, then translated into French, and from French into English. Geogrey gathered his materials from the works of Bede, traditions, Kelt legends, and his romantic imagination. It was he who created King Arthur as a romantic hero. Norman-French writers regarded Geofrey's work as an authentic historical document, and used it as the basis for stories about King Arthur and his knights.

Alongside poetry and prose, drama also began to emerge in England. Drama originally grew up in the church as a medium for clergy to explain their sermons. Since the sermons in the form of performances were given in Latin which was not understood by most of the congregation, they were gradually replaced with English. Performances, which were growing and required more performers, were also no longer held inside the church, but outside such as the churchyard or the streets. Plays were taken from the scriptures. For example, at Christmas the play of the birth of Christ is performed, while at Easter the story of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ is presented. Later, in addition to serious religious plays, secular and humorous plays were

performed as interludes to serious plays. Sometimes performances were organized by guilds under the supervision of the Church. In the Middle Ages (13th century) there were two kinds of drama: Miracles, which acted out the lives of saints, and Mysteries, which took themes from the Gospels [5].

**CONCLUSION**

Literary works are human personal expressions in the form of experiences of thoughts, feelings, ideas, passion, beliefs in a concrete form of real images that evoke charm by using language. The word prose refers to a broader sense, not only covering writings that are classified as literary works, but also non-fiction works, such as articles, essays, and so on. Prose in literature is often referred to as fiction. The word prose is taken from English, namely prose. Prose or fiction means a narrative work that tells something that is fictional, imaginary, not based on reality or can also mean a reality that is born based on fantasy.

In English language processes, it is common to find the use of words with archaic diction. The use of archaic language is intended to give a style or color to attract the attention of readers or listeners, provided that the intent or message that the author wants to convey can be conveyed and adjusted to the situation and taste values of a group of readers so as not to spoil the atmosphere or offend people who are not present.

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