

B.Sc./ B.C.A

Subject – English

3rd Semester

Kuvempu University

Session 2

Poem
MOTHER

P.Lankesh

Translated by A.K Ramanujan

Recap of previous class (Session 1)

- An overview of the syllabus and the process of the 3rd semester was introduced.
- The contents of prose and poetry were introduced.
- The different topics of writing skills were familiarized.

Learning objectives

- To introduce the poems in translation.
- To guide appreciating the beauty of studying poetry.
- Enabling to understand the value and importance of mother in the family.

Session outcomes

- Will enable to appreciate literature in general and poetry in translation in particular.
- Will learn to respect and value mother in family, and women in society.

PRE-READING TASK

Answer in a word or phrases.

- What is the importance of family?
- Who do you like very much in your family?
- Describe that person's appearance.
- Why do you like that person? Give reasons.
- Why is translation studies important in literature.
- Give Examples for translated works in literature.

Introduction to P. Lankesh

Palya Lankesh (8 March 1935 – 25 January 2000)

- An Indian poet, fiction writer, playwright, translator, screenplay writer, teacher and journalist who wrote in the Kannada language.
- Was the Editor of *Lankesh Patrike* from 1980 until his death in 2000.
- National Award for Best Direction for the movie Pallavi. (1976)
- Sahitya Akademi Award for *Kallu Karaguva Samaya Mattu Ithara Kathegalu* (1993).



Introduction to the poem Mother

- "Avva" and "Avva II" are two poems by P. Lankesh.
- The first poem is written as a tribute to his mother when he lost her.
- The second poem was written twenty six years after "Avva" as a continuation of the first poem.

Mother- 1ST Stanza

My mother,
black, prolific earth mother,
a green leaf, a festival of white flowers;
earthier with every burn,
with every pang
more fruit and petal;
her limbs thrilled to children's kicks:
laying down the basket on her head,
she groaned, closed her eyes, never opened them again.

Summary of the First stanza

- Mother is compared to Mother Earth
- She is like a fertile (prolific) black land rich with green leaves and white flowers
- Every burn and every pang (sufferings) make her more strong.
- She gets happy and thrilled even if her children trouble her.
- She worked hard till her death.

2nd Stanza

She raised a hundred measures of millet
to please my father
and win a bracelet for her arm;
swilling water for each clod of earth,
for pepper, pea, millet and grain,
she ploughed with her hand:
blossoming in flowers, ripening in fruit,
she watched over the fields,
spending her youth in a tatter of saris.



Summary of the Second stanza

- She worked very hard in fields to win her husband.
- She worked with her bare hands in the fields.
- Spent her whole life in old tattered (torn) clothes
- She never thought about her self and never took care of herself.
- She was very strong and productive.
- She is described as a rustic peasant woman

3rd Stanza

She died, she did:
what's the age of a hag bent double?
how many new year moons,
how many festival of sugar bread
over the live coals? How many times
had she wept, this woman,
for coin, for dead calf, for ruined grain?
How many times had she roamed the villages
for some ancient runaway buffalo?

Summary of the third stanza

- She died while working. Till her death she worked.
- Cannot estimate her age as she is shattered by work and has become old .(hag)
- She prepared delicious food for every festivals .
- Many times she wept for little money, dead calf, ruined grain, and run away buffalo.
- She lived her whole life and cared for her family.

Multiple Choice Questions

1.P.Lankesh is a writer in Language.

- a) Hindi
- b) Tamil
- c) Kannada
- d) English.

Multiple Choice Questions

2. In the First stanza of the poem the mother is compared to

a) A beautiful woman.

b) Mother Earth.

c) Tree.

d) A Queen.

Multiple Choice Questions

3. The mother in this poem wept for

- a) a dead calf.
- b) a ruined grain.
- c) a runaway buffalo.
- d) all the above

Multiple Choice Questions

4. The mother felt to her children's kicks.

- a) happy
- b) sad
- c) angry
- d) depressed.

Multiple Choice Questions

5. Mother of this poem lives in a

- a) Metropolitan city
- b) Rural place.
- c) Urban place
- d)None of the above

References:

- Dr. Somashekar Halathi, "P.Lankesh ", Ed-Pradhan Gurudattha, Navakarnataka Publications, 2008
- Text Book: **INVENTIONS –II**. Kuvempu University, Macmillan Publishers India Pvt. Ltd.
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P._Lankesh.

Suggested Reading.

- Read the original poem "Avva" and "Avva II" in Kannada written by P.LANKESH