

'Language not just words but culture & tradition too'

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ALIGARH: Linguists and scholars discussed Urdu literature, its morphological and syntactic structures and phonological characteristics in a day-long symposium on 'Modern Linguistics with reference to Urdu Literature' organised by the department of linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) in collaboration with the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi.

In the keynote address, Prof Khwaja Ekramuddin (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi) emphasised the impor-

tance of the emerging field of stylistics in linguistics to study literature and outlined the use of morphology, syntax, phonetics and semantics in analysing literary works.

Speaking on linguistic features and styles, he said that literature was not complete without stylistics as it played an important role in defining emotions, feelings, metaphors and epitomes.

"Stylistics is the art of seeing the artistic use of language and beautification of discourse in literature. There is no one way to express thoughts, ideas, experiences, or imagination and



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every author has a distinct way to express", Prof Khwaja pointed out.

He cited examples from the works of various poets to explain the beauty of stylistics and linguistic analysis of lan-

guage used in literature.

Quoting Noam Chomsky to explain the importance of language beyond its structure, the chief guest, Prof Anwar Pasha (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi) said, "Language is not just words; it is culture, tradition, and the unification of community".

"Language is born, changes with the passage of time, and may also die if not used by people. If we see how the language, culture, tradition, values, and stylistics are changing over time, we will understand the importance of great literary works such as Nautar-e-Mu-

rassa and Bag-o-Bahar", he added.

Prof Anwar also spoke on the works of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan.

The special guest of the programme, Prof Safdar Imam Qadri (Patliputra University, Patna) discussed contributions of Prof Masud Hussain Khan and Prof Mirza Khalil Ahmed Beg in reference to Urdu linguistics and stylistics.

He outlined the history of Urdu literary criticism and discussed the role of trend-setting writers.

Presiding over the programme, Prof S Imtiaz Hasnain (Dean, Faculty of Arts) dis-

cussed findings of a French scholar in the article, 'The Current State of Stylistics' and Prof Mirza Khalil A Beg's book, 'Tanqeed aur Usloobiyati Tanqeed'.

"As a method of textual interpretation, stylistics assigns the privacy of place to language and language", he said.

In the welcome address, Prof M J Warsi (chairman, department of linguistics, and coordinator of the seminar) said: "The era of modernization brought language, linguistics, literature, and culture into focus and modern studies have opened doors to study linguistics in relation to literature".