

Fri 8.5

BAII (Hons)

DR. AINUL ABEDDEEN

DR. JOHNSON AS A CRITIC.

DR. JOHNSON is a famous critic in English. His criticism is the criticism of a poet. He delineates criticism a task of setting up the rules. He is a last great critic who treated poets as school child to be corrected. He is very close to John Dryden. If John Dryden is a lawmaker, Dr. Johnson is Law-enforcer.

Dr. Johnson's critical theories are limited by classical prejudice. He cannot appreciate blank verse. Milton, Gray and Collins do not deserve the judgement. Shakespeare is criticised for many reasons. Dr. Johnson is deficient in aesthetic sensibility. He finds the music of lyrical harsh. He hardly believe Shakespeare as a master of poetic language. Johnson's criticism is vitiated by his extra-literary prejudice.

Dr. Johnson is always opened his eyes. He is 'classic' and his outlook is not narrow. He broadens his classical view. He judges by rules. His practical experience assists his criticism.

Dr. Johnson follows rules by which he judges. He is not interested in external nature. He criticises Milton's 'Paradise Lost' for its lack of human interests. Johnson praises Shakespeare for comedy and tragedy, presented in his plays. This means that Johnson as a critic is his sound scholarship. In 'The Lives of the Poets', he likes his familiar lives. There is no doubt that all these are based on sound and accurate knowledge. No theory prevents him from going straight to the heart of matter. His critical eyes is unbiased.

Despite limitations, Dr. Johnson is one of the Gurus of English criticism. He has performed his service for his subjects - He discusses classical unities.

Dr. Johnson is the first critic in English who applies a length for historic and comparative point in criticism. He writes in the preface to Shakespeare. He rids himself of traditional Shakespeare adoration. He accepts metaphysical poet unnatural in practice.

In brief, Dr. Johnson has given practical criticism. His criticism is based on his views of nature, function and value of poetry. He is sincere in his standard of judgement.