

Language of Literature and Science

Aldous Huxley

- In these reflections on the relations between art and science, Aldous Huxley attempts to discern the similarities and differences implicit in scientific and literary language, and he offers his opinions on the influence that each discipline exerts upon the other.

- Huxley says that the common language is inappropriate as a medium of both – the literary expressions as well as the scientific expressions. Although both need the purity of language and sense but their requirements are different.

- The scientist wants to use a language that conveys a limited, intended sense and if he finds the common language inadequate, he coins new jargons to express the clear and pure meaning and meet his purpose.
- He prefers a language and words that has got only one meaning and communicates the message or idea directly. The scientist aims at only one thing at a time but the literary artist prefers a language that caters the experiences of different people. He conveys a message at a private as well as at a public level.

- He scientist explains a rose in the language of bio – chemistry or genetics. For him rose is the result of some chemical reactions. But for a literary artist, it is an expression of some very soft expressions of some private feelings. He generalizes its message and enjoys the beauty of the nature.

- In *Literature and Science* Arnold says that there needs to be a connection between science and the humanities/religion, referring to Plato and the philosophies. He goes on to specifically emphasize that literature is the basis for "knowing ourselves and the world." It's one thing to just look at literature, but another thing to actually get a in depth idea of where this literature came from and who was doing what and where. This in sense gives stories and allows us to criticize ourselves based on the people from the Roman times. Toward his refutation and conclusion I can tell that he refers all this to the gap between science and the humanities in the 19th century when the industrial age had set in and the humanities did not matter to anyone.