

**An Investigation into The Creative Writing-Process  
and Identification of the Creative-Writing Ability  
In Student-Teachers of English, In the  
Inter-Cultural Connotation.**

Opinionnaire to the Creative-Writers  
in U. K., U. S. A., Nigeria and India  
In English and various Indian Languages

Centre of Advanced Study in Education  
**FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY**

***M. S. University of Baroda***  
**BARODA - 390 002**

**1984**

**CENTRE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN EDUCATION**  
**M. S. University of Baroda, BARODA.**

**Opinionnaire to the Creative Writers**

Guide : Dr. (Mrs.) N. A. Shelat

Researcher : K. Prabhavathi

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Dear Sir/Madam

Given below are a few questions which relate to your creative thinking and writing experience. Please answer them and when the form is filled out, will you kindly mail it to me (K. Prabhavathi, Lecturer in English, St. Joseph's College of Education for Women, Guntur - 522 004. A. P., South India).

I express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for this help. Your cooperation is highly solicited in this regard for, it is upon such cooperation, that the ultimate success and value of the entire investigation depends.

GUNTUR

Yours sincerely,  
**PRABHAVATHI K.**

**A**

Name :

Designation/Occupation :

Address (Official)

Literary Contributions : )Put (✓) mark under the appropriate means of Publication)

		Means of Publication				
		No.	Book	Journal	News Paper	Magazine
1. Short Stories	...					
2. Novels	...					
3. Poetry	...					
4. Any other	...					

Titles and Awards or Prizes Won :

		Year	Name of the Prize
School Level			
College Level	...		
University	...		
Literary clubs	...		
Asssoiations	...		

		Year	Name of the Award
State Level			

National Level

Any other

•

(d)

(e)

(f)

2

•

Is any member of the family writing ?  
Put (✓) mark at the relevant response

Yes / No

Mother —  
Father —  
Sisters —  
Brothers —  
Grand Parents —  
Any other —

Medium of writing 1.  
(Language) 2.

## **B**

1. What makes you write a poem/short story/novel mainly ?

Put (✓) mark at the appropriate answer

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| a. Money —              | e. Desire for expression and communication — |
| b. Fame —               | f. Creative ego —                            |
| c. Love and enjoyment — | g. Any other (Please specify) —              |
| d. Therapy —            | ----- —                                      |

2. How do you get to a starting of your literary piece ?

Put (✓) mark at the appropriate response on the scale.

- |                                   | Always | Sometimes | Never |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------|-------|
| a. In reverie                     | —      | —         | —     |
| b. While day-dreaming             | —      | —         | —     |
| c. Sudden and spontaneous (flash) | —      | —         | —     |
| d. At will (conscious effort)     | —      | —         | —     |
| e. Any other                      | —      | —         | —     |

3. At what times do you think you can write better ?

Put (✓) mark on the appropriate responses on the scale

- |                                   | Always | Some times | Never |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------------|-------|
| a. In travel or a walk            | —      | —          | —     |
| b. Early hours of morning         | —      | —          | —     |
| c. Mid night quietude             | —      | —          | —     |
| d. In the public also if inspired | —      | —          | —     |
| e. Any other time _____           | —      | —          | —     |

4. When you write, are you very much worried about the form and elements of writing a piece of your choice ?  
Yes / No

Give reasons for the choice :

5. What and when was your first literary piece produced ?

Name :

Year :

Stage :

School :

Post-Graduate :

College :

Old age :

6. What was your first experience like ? or Describe your awareness of creativity for the first time, in brief.

7. Were you discouraged by people in the beginning ? If so to what extent ?

Put (✓) mark on the scale

	To a Great Extent	To Some Extent	Not at All
a. Parents	—	—	—
b. Teacher	—	—	—
c. Friends	—	—	—
d. Husband/Wife	—	—	—
e. Colleagues	—	—	—
f. Authority	—	—	—
g. Publisher/Editor	—	—	—

8. What are the themes that provide you encouragement or serve as motives for expression (Tick them)

- |                       |   |                               |   |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|
| a. Nature             | — | e. Internal conflict          | — |
| b. Person             | — | f. Discontent with life       | — |
| c. Patriotic feelings | — | g. Any other (Please specify) | — |
| d. Intimate love      | — | _____                         | — |

9. Name the writers you like most.

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |

10. A. What is your favourite image as a writer ? Name the author or authors.

- |     |     |
|-----|-----|
| (a) | (d) |
| (b) | (e) |
| (c) | (f) |

B. List out the creative characteristics of his/their writings that you are impressed with.

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| a. | d. |
| b. | e. |
| c. | f. |

11. Do you think that a foreign language is a barrier for creative expression ?

YES/NO

Give reasons for your choice :

a.

b.

9.

d.

12. Can you recall your compositions whenever you want to recite in the public ?

YES / NO

### C

1. What is the meaning of 'creativity' according to you ? (Tick out an appropriate answer)

- |                         |   |  |   |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| a. To invent            | — | e. To create something unique and novel. | — |
| b. To innovate          | — | f. divergent thinking                    | — |
| c. Problem solving      | — | g. Any other (Please specify)            | — |
| d. Adventurous thinking | — | _____                                    | — |

2. Do you follow any concept of creativity in particular ?

Yes / No

If 'Yes', Put (✓) mark on appropriate answer/answers.

- |                           |   |                                |   |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| a. Divine inspiration     | — | f. Sublimation                 | — |
| b. As madness near allied | — | g. Giftedness                  | — |
| c. Intuitive genius       | — | h. Self-actualisation          | — |
| d. As cosmic life         | — | (fulfilment of potentialities) | — |
| e. Association of ideas   | — | i. Creative intuition          | — |
|                           |   | J. Any other                   | — |
|                           |   | _____                          | — |

Give reasons :



3. A. What is 'creative writing' according to you ?

B. Write in brief or describe or define any two or three forms of the following which you have been writing.

a. Poem :

b. Short Story :

c. Essay :

d. Novel :

e. Any other :  
-----

4. How do you consider the creative-writing potential ? (Put (✓) mark on the scale)

	To a Great Extent	To Some Extent	To a Small Extent	Not at All
a. Hereditary	—	—	—	—
b. Acquired	—	—	—	—
c. A talent rare	—	—	—	—
d. Mysterious	—	—	—	—
e. An intuition	—	—	—	—
f. Any other	—	—	—	—
Give reasons :				

5. Kindly recall and mention various stages in the process of your creative-writing ?

a.

b.

c.

d.

6. What is your source of expression ? (Put (✓) mark against your choices on the Scale provided)

	To a Great Extent	To Some Extent	To a Small Extent	Not at All
a. Inspiration (urge for expression/divine inspiration)	—	—	—	—
b. Environment (religious/social/physical)	—	—	—	—
c. Conflict in the subconscious mind	—	—	—	—
d. Dissatisfaction or anger with society and people	—	—	—	—
e. If any other please write ~~~~~	—	—	—	—



1. What should be the components of a creative piece according to you ? Mention them.

Example : Form, Imagery

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| a) | i) |
| b) | j) |
| c) | k) |
| d) | l) |
| e) | m) |
| f) | n) |
| g) | o) |
| h) | p) |

2. Which of the following, do you think, is the dominating factor or factors in creativity.

Put (✓) mark on the scale provided.

	To a Great Extent	To Some Extent	To a Small extent	Not at All
a. Intellect	—	—	—	—
b. Knowledge of the elements of a creative piece	—	—	—	—
c. Biological inheritance	—	—	—	—
d. Heart or emotions	—	—	—	—
e. Both intellect and heart	—	—	—	—
f. Intuition	—	—	—	—
g. Unknown	—	—	—	—



1. How do you react when you are asked to write by the publisher/authority/editor or any other ?

- a) Don't feel like writing
- b) Accept the offer
- c) Struggle hard for the ideas
- d) Any other (Please write)

-----

2. How do you react to the public opinion of your writings ?

	To a Great Extent	To Some Extent	To a Small Extent	Not at All
a) Annoyed	—	—	—	—
b) Indifferent	—	—	—	—
c) Accept positively	—	—	—	—
d) Discard writing	—	—	—	—
e) Don't care at all	—	—	—	—
f) Casual	—	—	—	—
g) And other (Please write)	—	—	—	—

-----

3. And you do respond to :

- a) Favourable comments
- b) Adverse remarks
- c) Suggestive comments

—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—

4. Do you think that one can write only in his mother-tongue ?

Yes / No

Give reasons

- a) -----
- b) -----
- c) -----
- d) -----
- e) -----
- f) -----

5. Suggest some ways of identifying the creative writing talents in the younger generation, from your experience.

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)
- f)

6. Do you think that creative potential could be nurtured in the students ?  
If 'Yes' suggest some ways of nurturing it.

Yes / No

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

If 'no' give reasons :

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

7. Which of the following statements do you agree with ?

Mark them in order of priority

- a. 'Life is like a game where, one man's loss is another man's gain.' ...
- b. 'We are like Tennis balls tossed to and fro in the hands of God.' ...
- c. Good and evil after all, are two sides of the same coin. ...
- d. Of course, love is the binding and governing principle of the universe. ...
- e. 'It is in our mind whether to create a hell or heaven.' ...
- f. What is religion ? It is nothing but a cultivation of the basic values such as honesty, and integrity of mind and character. ...
- g. 'No man but a blockhead ever wrote, except for money.' ...
- h. Help if you can otherwise restrain from harming. ...
- i. Any other, please write ; ...

## QUESTIONNAIRE

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**Questionnaire to the Student-Teachers**

Guide : Dr. (Mrs.) N. A. Shelat

Researcher : K. Prabhavathi

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Dear Student-Teacher,

Given below are a few statements relating to your likes-interests past-experience in creative writing and the encouragement given by the teacher and parents. Please read the statements carefully and tick your choice as shown in the below example.

Example :

	Always	Often	Occasionally	never
1) I want to compose a poem			✓	
2) I like music very much		✓		

14-11-1984

**K. PRABHAVATHI**  
Researcher

Always

Often

Occasionally

Never

19) They read and appreciate my -

- a. poems
- b. drawings
- c. essays

20) They encourage me to write -

- a) poems
- b) stories
- c) essays to the magazine.

21) They discuss with me about great stories and novels.

22) They help me to compose

- a. a poem
- b. a story
- c. an essay

23) I get a lot of reading material in my house.

24) My parents encourage me to become a member of a public library.

25. They appreciate my participation in literary activities

- a. debates
- b. elocution
- c. symposium
- d. essay-writing
- e. word building test

26. They allow my participation in all other activities like -

- a. games
- b. music competition
- c. Painting
- d. dancing

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Always

Often

Occasionally

Never

- 3) She reads my poems and appreciates me.
- 4) She encourages us to read out -
  - a poems
  - b. storiesto the class
- 5) She gives me an opportunity to read my compositions in the college functions.
- 6) She encourages us to write for the college magazine
- 7) She conducts the -
  - a. creative writing
  - b. descriptive writing competitions.
- 8) My English teacher teaches us how to write -
  - a a poem
  - b. a story
  - c. a novel
- 9) I wanted to write but I donot know the technique.
- 10) I experience the difficulty of getting to start of -
  - a. a poem
  - b. a story
  - c. an essay
- 11) My English teacher herself is a writer and reads her literary pieces to us
- 12) She created in me love for literature
- 13) We love our English classes very much.
- 14) My teacher encourages us to read great poems and novels.
- \*  
15) She insists upon the text book essays only.
- 16) She allows some freedom to imagine and write our own stories in the lesson plans.
- 17) My parents allow me to read extra books.
- \*  
18) They are very particular about my ranks and grades.

*\* Negative Statements.*

Always

often

Occasionally

Never

24) What characteristics do you like in his writings ?

25) Did any one of the following inspire your creative writings :

a. Teacher :

b. Parent :

c. Any other

E

1) I am inspired by the readings of poetry by my English teacher.

2) My teacher encourages me to write -

a. poems

b. stories

c. skits

d. songs

e. novels

- |  | Always | often | Occasionally | Never |
|--|--------|-------|--------------|-------|
| 14) I write and direct skits -   |        |       |              |       |
| a. for the college functions   |        |       |              |       |
| b. for cultural programmes out side  |        |       |              |       |
| 15) I play -   |        |       |              |       |
| a. piano   |        |       |              |       |
| b. guiter  |        |       |              |       |
| c. violin  |        |       |              |       |
| d. flute   |        |       |              |       |
| e. any other   |        |       |              |       |
| 16) I compose the tunes of my own for  |        |       |              |       |
| a poems  |        |       |              |       |
| b. songs   |        |       |              |       |
| 17) I published -  |        |       |              |       |
| a. stories   |        |       |              |       |
| b. essays  |        |       |              |       |
| c. novels in my mother tongue  |        |       |              |       |
| d. poems   |        |       |              |       |
| 18) I got -  |        |       |              |       |
| a. prizes  |        |       |              |       |
| b. awards for my stories/novels  |        |       |              |       |
| 19) I participate in the essay writing competitions and word-building tests. |        |       |              |       |
| 20) I suddenly get an inspiration to write -                                 |        |       |              |       |
| a) a poem  |        |       |              |       |
| b) a story   |        |       |              |       |
| 21) The poem/story comes to me without my knowledge.                         |        |       |              |       |
| 22) Which piece of literary writing inspired you most ?                      |        |       |              |       |
| 23) Which writer do you like most ?  |        |       |              |       |

## D

- |  | Always | Often | Occasionally | Never |
|--|--------|-------|--------------|-------|
|--|--------|-------|--------------|-------|
- 
- 1) I used to compose my own songs in my school days
  - 2) I write in my mother tongue
    - a. Poems
    - b. Stories
    - c. Novels
  - 3) I write riddles/jokes to the magazines and journals
  - 4) I write articles to the college magazine or periodicals.
  - 5) I attend the writers' symposiums.
  - 6) I entertain my friends with funny stories and jokes.
  - 7) I participate in the debates/elocutions.
  - 8) I draw and paint pictures.
  - 9) I got prizes in the -
    - a inter-school competitions
    - b. collegiate debates
    - c. elocutions
    - d. essay-writing competitions
  - 10) I write my intimate thoughts and experiences in my diary.
  - 11) I keep a collection of my writings.
  - 12) I read during the college functions my compositions on -
    - a. person
    - b. occasion
    - c. nature
    - d. any other celebrations
  - 13) I write to a radio broadcast
    - a) poem
    - b) a story
    - c) a skit

	Always	often	Occasionally	Never
31) I write related passage for language drilling quite elaborately.				
32) I like to express an idea using a comparison.				
33) I wish to describe my dreams.				
34) I like riddles and jokes very much.				
35) I like the clowns in Shakespeaer's plays				
36) I enjoy buffoonery in the circus.				
37) I enjoy reading humorous poems.				
38) I appreciate a talk or a speech which is humorous				
39) I like the magic and the jugglery shows.				
40) I like to collect jokes and humorous stories.				
41) I tell jokes and make my friends laugh.				
42) I like to read and learn by heart the lines of a poem which are rhythmically good.				
43) I like the rhythmic cries of a nightingnle or a cuckoo in the spring.				
44) I like listening to the rhythmic sound of the sea-waves.				
45) I like poems with a good rhyming pattern at the end				
46) I am fond of lines with words of similar sound in the middle of the lines also.				
47) I can sing reasonably well.				
48) I like to compose my own songs.				
49) I attend the music concerts.				
50) I imagine about my own self				
a) career				
b) my family				
c) my life				
51) I am lost in day-dreaming.				
52) I can imagine the consequences of my actions,				
53) I can predict some events to happen.				

Always

Often

Occasionally

Never

- 10) I can speak English fluently (at normal speed)
- 11) I can think directly in English without translating sentences from the mother tongue.
- 12) I can write with a considerable amount of ease in English
- 13) I am fond of collecting new words and use them in my speech.
- 14) I like to participate in the word-building tests and games.
- 15) I like to solve the cross-word puzzles.
- 16) I can produce several synonyms for words.
- 17) I like to collect beautiful quotations and learn them
- 18) I like to play with words.
- \* 19) I like to play old games rather than the new.
- \* 20) I read only Shakespeare, Milton or Johnson.
- \* 21) I appreciate old paintings and songs.
- \* 22) I insist upon my students to produce exactly the answers and the sentences I gave in language drilling.
- \* 23) I encourage my pupils to lift up the answers from the text book in the examination.
- \* 24) I follow old methods (Translation and Grammar and the Direct Methods) of teaching English.
- 25) I change the method and procedure of my English lesson to suit my pupils' learning.
- 26) Usually I write letters elaborately.
- 27) My answers are quite long.
- 28) I like describing incidents and events.
- 29) I am excited by beautiful descriptions of nature.
- \* 30) I skip of long descriptions in the novels while reading.

\* - Negative statements

- |  | Always | Often | Oecasionally | Never |
|--|--------|-------|--------------|-------|
| 21) I like collecting -  |        |       |              |       |
| a. poems   |        |       |              |       |
| b. stories   |        |       |              |       |
| c. humorous anecdotes  |        |       |              |       |
| d. novels  |        |       |              |       |
| * 22) I prefer games and sports to literary activities                                 |        |       |              |       |
| * 23) I like to attend social functions  |        |       |              |       |
| 24) I would rather spend my time in reading rather than attending the social functions |        |       |              |       |
| 25) I like to become a writer  |        |       |              |       |
| 26) I appreciate the beauty off lowers.  |        |       |              |       |

## C

- 1) I like excursions because I enjoy seeing beautiful things in nature.
- 2) The sea-waters, high mountains and deep valleys cause a sense of wonder in me.
- 3) I enjoy listening to birds songs and imitate.
- 4) I am fond of the fragrance and the sweet smells of
  - a) flowers
  - b) fruits
  - c) cooked dishes
- 5) I would like to write the following on the subject of my own choice -
  - a. compositions
  - b. essays
- 6) I prefer to express my ideas and feelings in my own sentences and style.
- 7) I write my answers in the examination using my originality.
- 8) To a given usage (word or a structural item) I write my own sentences.
- 9) I write my own dialogues and passages for structure drilling while teaching a new lesson.

*\* Negative statements.*

## B

Always

often

Occasionally

Never

- 1) I want to compose a poem
- 2) I like to write a story
- 3) I want to write a novel
- 4) I want to write an essay
- 5) I like to compose a song
- 6) I feel like writing when I see a beautiful scenery
- 7) I take pleasure in watching the clouds sailing in the sky
- 8) I like watching the sunrise and the sunset splendour
- 9) My heart delights to watch and walk under the silver moon.
- 10) I like to be out enjoying the feel of the first summer shower like a small child
- 11) I am fascinated by the rainbow.
- 12) I like to listen to music
- \* 13) When I see a flower, I would like to dissect and analyse its parts.
- 14) I wish to write about anything in English.
- \* 15) I feel like writing in my mother-tongue only
- 16) I feel an urge to express my -
  - a. troubled thoughts
  - b. feelings
  - c. worries
- 17) I feel restless in my mind to express my feelings when I am touched by an incident.
18. I like to read in my leisure time -
  - a. poems
  - b. stories
  - d. novels
- \* 19) I like to read only the text books
- 20) I want to have a library of my own

\* *Negative statements*



## **QUESTIONNAIRE**

**A**

**Name of the Student :**

**Class :**

**Sex :**

**Name of the College /Institution :**

**State :**

**Country :**

**Mother-tongue :**

**Medium of Instruction :**

**At School :**

**At College :**

**Occupation of the Father :**

**Occupation of the Mother :**

**Parents income per month :**

**Education of the Father :**

**Education of the Mother :**

**If any one in the family or among the relatives is a -**

**a) Writer**

**b) Artist**

**c) Musician**

**(Name the relationship against the appropriate response)**