**Dr.BELMERABET Fatiha**

**LECTURE FOUR:**

**The Renaissance Period (1500-1660) Part Two**

**10.1. Jacobean Age (1603-1625)**

The age is named after James I[[1]](#footnote-2) who reigned over England after Elizabeth’s death from 1603 to 1625. The word “Jacobean” is derived from *Jacobus*, the Latin version of the name James. Some historians prefer to name the last five years of this age as a part of another age which they call the Puritan Age (1620- 1660). They did so since between 1620 and 1660 Puritanism became the motivating force in the life and literature of England.

**10.2. The Important Facts which Influenced the Literature of this Period**

1) Colonial territories were expanded.

(2) Religious conflict that subsided in the Elizabethan Age, came to life during this period. Protestants were divided into three sects: (1) Anglicans, (2) Presbyterians, and Puritans.

(3) Renaissance's influence continued.

(4) Scotland was brought under the rule of the King of England.

**10.3. Major Writers of the Period and Their Major Works**

though Shakespeare had started writing in the Elizabethan Period, he wrote twelve serious plays in this period. Those plays are *Measure for Measure* (1604), *Othello* (1604). *Macbeth* (1605), *King Lear* (1605). *Antony and Cleopatra* (1606), *Coriolanus* (1606). *Tim on of Athens* (unfinished- 1608), *Pericles* (in part- 1608), *Cymbeline* (1 609), *The* *Winter’s Tale* (1610), *The Tempest* (1611), *Henry VIII* (in part-1613).

Even though Shakespeare composed these serious plays in the Jacobean Age, he is called an Elizabethan playwright and never a Jacobean. The period (1590-1616) in which he wrote his plays, is also called the Shakespearean Age.

Ben Jonson who had begun writing in the Elizabethan Period wrote his well-known plays in this period: *Volpone* (1605) *The Silent Woman* (1 609) *The Alchemist* (1610)

Francis Bacon sustained writing in this period: *Advancement of Learning* (1605) *Novum Orgum* (1620).

Some new essays were added to the new edition of his Essays (1625)

John Webster (1580-1625):*The White Devil* (1612) *The Duchess of Malfi* (1614)

 Cyril Tourneur (1575-1626): *The Revenger’s Tragedy* (1600) *The Atheist's Tragedy* (1611)

John Donne (1572-1631) and George Herbert (1593-1633), the metaphysical poets, started writing in this period.

**10.4. Prevailing Literary Features of the Age**

1) The grace and felicity of Elizabethan verse disappear.

2) The Platonic idealism which had been the main spirit of the Elizabethan era almost dies out and more realism was shown.

3) Renaissance’s spirit remains the main influence.

4) The literary scene continues to be dominated by Drama.

5) Classical rules of drama are maintained by Ben Jonson.

6) Poetry takes a new and surprising move.

7) Decadence of art begins more vulgarity is felt.

8) English language develops further.

10) Satiric art begins.

1. King James I, known as the Wisest Fool, authorized the translation of the Bible into English in 1611. It appeared in 1611 and its language became the point of reference of English language. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)