**Lesson 5: Japanese Period(1941 – 1945)**

Between 1941-1945, Philippine Literature was interrupted in its development when we were again conquered by another foreign country, Japan. Philippine literature in English came to a halt. Except for the Tribune and the Philippine Review, Pillars, Free Philippines, and Filipina, almost all newspapers in English were stopped by the Japanese.

During this time, there was no freedom of speech and of the press. Victoria Abelardo has described Filipino writing during the Japanese occupation as being pessimistic and bitter. There were some efforts at escapist literature, but in general, the literary output was minor and insignificant. Because of strict censorship, few literary works were printed during the war years.

The weekly Liwayway was placed under strict surveillance until it was managed by a Japanese named Ishiwara

The only contact with the outside world was done with utmost secrecy through the underground radio program called “Voice of Freedom”.

Tagalog was favored by the Japanese military authority and writing in English was consigned to a limbo.

Japanese were able to influence and encourage the Filipino in developing the vernacular literature.

The only Filipino writers who could write freely were those who were living in the United States. Most writers and authors were lead to either go underground or write in Tagalog.So, Filipino literature was given a break during this period.

Filipino literature also experienced renewed attention because writers in English turned to writing in Filipino.

The drama experienced a lull during the Japanese period because movie houses showing American films were closed. - The big movie houses were just made to show stage shows. Many of the plays were reproductions of English plays to Tagalog. -The translators were Francisco Soc Rodrigo, Alberto Concio, and Narciso Pimentel. -They also founded the organization of Filipino players named .

A few of the playwriters were:

1. Jose Ma. Hernandez – wrote PANDAY PIRA

2.Francisco Soc Rodrigo – wrote sa PULA, SA PUTI

3.Clodualdo del Mundo – wrote BULAGA (an expression in the game Hide and Seek)

. 4. Julian Cruz Balmaceda – wrote SINO BA KAYO?, DAHIL SA ANAK, and HIGANTE NG PATAY.

Three types of poems emerged during this period. – a poem of free verse that the Japanese liked. It is made up of seventeen (17) syllables divided into three (3) lines. The first line has five, the second – seven and the third – five. It is allegorical in meaning, short and covers a wide scope in meaning.

Like the haiku, it is short, but has measure and rhyme. Each line has seventeen syllables and is also allegorical in meaning. (Usual Form) – the usual and common form of poetry

The field of the short story widened during the Japanese Occupation. Many wrote short stories. -Among them were: Brigido Batungbakal Macario Pineda Serafin Guinigindo Liwayway Arceo, Narciso Ramos NVM Gonzales, Alicia Lopez Lim Ligaya Perez Gloria Guzman

The best writings in 1945 were selected by a group of judges composed of Francisco Icasiano, Jose Esperanza Cruz, Antonio Rosales, Clodualdo del Mundo and Teodoro Santos.

As a result of this selection, the following got the first three prizes: First Prize: Narciso Reyes with his LUPANG TINUBUAN Second Prize: Liwayway Arceo’s UHAW ANG TIGANG NA LUPA Third Prize: NVM Gonzales’ LUNSOD NAYON AT DAGAT-DAGATAN

Noteworthy writer of the period was Carlos P. Romulo who won the Pulitzer Prize for his bestsellers I SAW THE FALL OF THE PHILIPPINES, I SEE THE PHILIPPINES RISE and his MOTHER AMERICA AND MY BROTHER AMERICANS. Journalists include Salvador P. Lopez, Leon Ma. Geurrero, Raul Manglapuz and Carlos Bulosan. Nick Joaquin produced THE WOMAN WHO LOOKED LIKE LAZARUS. Fred Ruiz Castro wrote a few poems.

LITERATURE AND SOCIETY by Salvador P. Lopez (Essay) HIS NATIVE SOIL – by Juan Laya (Novel) President Manuel L. Quezon’s autobiography THE GOOD FIGHT was published posthumously. Other writers of this period were Juan Collas (19440, Tomas Confesor (1945), Roman A. de la Cruz and Elisa Tabuñar.