

## **SEM 5; CC 11, Group C**

**Teacher: S. S.**

### Introducing Autobiography

- Narrative that undertakes to reconstruct the author's own life, or a part of it.
- Retrospective mode of narration
- Selection of events/happenings based on their importance to his life as he perceives it.
- First person narrative moving in form of a review, based mainly on memory and a subjective analysis of the self.
- Origin can be traced to antiquity. Term autobiography first used by William Taylor in 1797 in the periodical *The Monthly Review*.
- According to Taylor, it was "pedantic"
- Robert Southey used the word in 1809 in the modern sense.
- As opposed to history, narrative may choose to highlight or omit certain events or parts of reality.
- As opposed to journal or diary writing, autobiography does not rely on chronology. A moment in the past or an event is important for its reflective value.
- As opposed to memoirs, autobiography generally does not lend itself to sentimentality, but rather focuses on a self-centred and introspective reconstruction of the development of the self.
- As opposed to confessional modes of writing which are usually moral and/or religious, autobiographies are secular in nature. But to note, both are written with the same purpose – revelation of the self.