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A Journey of Novel

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Abstract

This paper is aimed to picturize in the form of words, the anomalies as well as the peculiarities of the special Classification or the genre among various distinctive wings of English literature – “Novel”. The presence of social content in the light of conventionalism and the modernism, the alteration and modification that it went throughout the ages in the spectrum of social realms relating to the far beyond and true actualities that conglomerated to structure this categorical literary genre of fictional art will be engrossing to analyse. Reflection of social statistics of tarnished and rusted moral values and virtues of mankind will present a complete degradation of social structure– ‘What, Why and How’ will enable the readers to judge this class of Literature as a separate entity in the sphere of creative work of art. The emergence, evolution and acknowledgement of different types of ‘Novel’ will spotlight this particular genre into its further separate individual streams and numerous artistic creations by multifaceted writers and authors will leave an essence of the tremendous and pictorial figure of this diverse and manifold concrete of creation called ‘Novel’.

Keywords: *Novel, Evolution, Rise and Development, Anomaly, Classification*

The word ‘Novel’ was originated from the Italian expression ‘Novella’ meant ‘new’, ‘news’ or a short story of something “new” in Latin ‘Novellus’. It (Novel) stands for a large variety of Prosaic form of writing broadly originated in the west of the globe but the traces of it is visible in ancient Egyptian writings and the middle ages of Japan. The Japanese text “The Tale of Genji” (is an 11th- century novel) written by ‘Murasaki Shikibu’ sometimes believed to be the first-ever written novel of this world. ‘W.H Hudson’ in his famous work ‘An Introduction to the Study of Literature (Pg. 129)’ wrote, “it is, as ‘Marion Crawford’ once happily phrased it a ‘Pocket Theatre’, containing within itself not only plot and actors, but also costume, scenery and all other accessories of a dramatic representation”. The ‘Novel’ possesses an uninterrupted and enormous past of about 2000 years and discovers its aboriginality in

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classics of Greece and Rome, medieval Romance and Renaissance of Italian Novella. However, the occurrence of Novel as per 'Ian Watt' (1971-1999) in his "The Rise of Novel" (1957) can be recorded in the 18th century in England.

On a serious note in "Don Quixote" (1605-1615) authored by 'Miguel de Cervantes' can be observed as World's first modern novel, but in the form of a book, the first modern novel that finds its existence is "Robinson Crusoe" by Daniel Defoe (1660-1731) brought out in the year 1719. In the words of 'E.M Forster' (1879-1970), in his critical work "Aspects of Novel"- a collection of his Literary Lectures (pub. 1927), the term Novel is defined as "any fictitious work over 50000 words".

The use of the term "aspects" is because of its indeterminate, indistinct and speculative properties which better exemplifies the term "spongy" form in question.

In the views of a great novelist, Walter Scott (1771-1831) the father of Historical Novel in English literature, there is a difference between the novel which he saw as an anecdote of events which are put up to the ordinary tram of human events and the modern social state and 'the Romance' as a "fictitious the narrative in phrase or verse; the interest of which turns upon marvellous and uncommon incidents" and calls Romance as "kindred term".

Though this distinction made by 'Scott', there are several historical romances of Scott which popularized this genre in the early 19th century through his famous creation "Rob Roy" (1817) and "Ivanhoe" (1819), "Wuthering Heights" by 'Emily Bronte' published under her pseudonym "Ellis Bell" and Herman Melville's "Moby dick" (1851) are novels. It is considered that novel exists as a genre and found its resources from its Predecessors – "the epic" and "the Romance". An epic is the long narrative Poem about the heroic deeds of a Warrior or any national hero. It is classified into two- Primary and Secondary. Primary concerns the oral tradition such as Homer's "Iliad" and "Odyssey", "Beowulf" (C 750- 1000 AD) anonymous, "Sumerian Epic of Gilgamesh" (1300-1000) and Secondary/literary epic concerns Literature in written form such as Vergil's "Aeneid", Milton's "Paradise Lost". However, Indian English Literature the "Ramayana" (400 B.C and 200 C.E), "Mahabharata" (4th B.C) and Kailash's 'Abhigyan Shakuntalam' (5th-century CE) are fine examples of literary epic. James Joyce "Finnegan's Wake" (1939), Tolstoy's "War and Peace" (1865-72); "Anna Karenina"(1875-76) are some novels which present the story of heroism and illustrate the most significant characteristic feature of an epic. The second

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ancestor of the novel is the Romance which took birth in the early 13th century in Europe and flourished courtly characters, in particular, usually taken as an adventure story of love or chivalry. Stories of the “Legend of King Arthur” and his Knights, stories of “Alexander the Great”, the “Trojan Wars” and the “House of Thebes”, “Tales of bravery and chivalry of king Charlemagne and his knights” are some examples of the Romance in abundance from the medieval era. Another important predecessor of Novel is Narrative in the tradition of the picaresque, born in Spain in the 16th century. ‘Picas’ stands for the ‘Rouge’ for a Protagonist and the Narrative narrates his escaped in its core. “History of Tom Jones, a Foundling”(1749) by ‘Henry Fielding’ is an example of this tradition. So chiefly, the predecessors of the novel are three in number—the Epic, the Romance, and the tradition of picaresque.

The Rise and development of the Novel noticed largely in the 17th century. Walter Raleigh in his work “The English Novel” (pg 180) quoted “With the works of Richardson and Fielding the career of the novel may be said to have begun”. Further Developments marked Eliza Haywood’s epic- length novel, “Love in Excess” (1719/20) and Samuel Richardson’s Pamela” or Virtue Rewarded (1741), one of the best examples of Epistolary Novel.

Although the novels in its classification are great in number but primarily few are regarded as the most significant subdivisions of Novel. They are Psychological Novels, Political Novels, Sociological Novels, Religious Novels and Science Fiction. Psychological Novels stands for the work of art which basically deals with emotions, thoughts and stimulus of the characters of the Novels. In this tradition of Writings, Fyodor Dostvsky established his name through the novels “The Brothers Karamazov ‘(1880) and “Crime and Punishment” (1867).

Another famous name in this form of realism includes ‘Henry James’ who wrote “The portrait of a Lady”(1881). “The Ambassador” (1989), “The Bostonians” (1887), “The Americans” (1877). There is an Exemplification in the core depth of characters state of mind by application of figurative devices- stream of consciousness and flashback techniques .Patrick McGrath, Edith Warton and Arthur miller are also considered as giant figures in this psychological school of writing. Miller’s “Death of a Salesman” (1949), “All my Son’s “(1953) are his major contributions. Political Fiction is mainly detrimental for the open criticism of the existing society and analysis of the reality behind the curtain.

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Jonathan Swifts “Gulliver’s Travels” (1726) Stowe’s “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” (1852), Voltaire’s “Candide” (1759), More’s “Utopia” (1516) are few instances of this form of writings.

Science Fiction stands for the creative work of art which is related to scientific facts and theories of this exiting Universe. For instance 1897 novel “The War of World” by H. G Wells speaks about the Alien invasion and also his “The Times Machine” (1895) is about the concept of time travel.

Another Series of the types of Novels are Crime Novels, detective Fiction and Bildungsroman. Crime Novels and Detective Fiction are more or less similar which are thrilling and mysterious in its characteristic feature. The 5th published novel of Willkie Collins’ “The Woman in White”(1859) is the most remarkable work in this class of writings.

Gothic Fiction is the genre of writing dealing with the furious, mysterious and horrifying plots which at time include Romance as well as Death. Horace Walpole is honoured as originator of Gothic Fiction and his “The Castel of Otranto” (1764) is the first novel. Alice Walker’s “The colour Purple” is Epistolary Novel, the type of novel which deals with Letters. Proletarian Fiction on the other hand elaborates the literature by Working class. Dickens’ “Hard Times”, John Steinbeck and Henry Green’s “Loving” are few contributions in the category of Bildungsroman novel centers the growth of a character’s formative years and the Novel “David Copperfield” by Charles Dickens is the most suitable example of it.

Women writing also played a key role in this form of writing. Though this form of writing is wider in its building but occupied a significant place in the class of novel through revolutionary, reforming and progressive utterance for the establishment of women’s reasonable political and legal rights and values. As an important prevailing character of society, women played a vital part in demonstrating the bitter reality of the society. The most prominent names from this field are ‘Virginea Woolf’(1882-1941), ‘Kate Chopin’(1851-1904) ,’George Eliot’(1819-1880), ‘Dorothy Richardson’(1873-1957) wrote the novels “To the light House”(1927), “The Awakening”(1899), “Pilgrimage”- a sequence of 13 semi autobiographical novels (1915-1967), respectively. ‘Novel’ on a social strand reflects numerous dogmas of society with which both the mankind as well as the concerned age collides, and not only this but also the changes that culminated sooner or later both for the development and deterioration of society. The novel “Tom Jones” (1749)picturizes the English life of his time, “A Tale of two Cities” (1859) points out, historical events of ‘French Revolution’ and ‘Reign of Terror’. “The Scarlet Letter”(1850) expresses the

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orthodox puritan age during (1642-1649) and tells us the story of Sin, Suffering and damnation of the Protagonist 'Hester Prynne' who conceived a daughter through an extramarital affair and also the novel "Beloved"(1987) describes the pathetic plight of the 'blacks' in America.

George Eliot in "Romola" (1862) visualises Italian Renaissance and spiritual struggle of that Period. Thus the social stance of the contemporary Period builds the connection between theme and setting and features that age outstandingly in a literary context.

Far from the puritan period to this modern time of 20th century, Novel stands as a dynamic genre of literature dealing with contemporary scenario in multiple aspects. Exploration of Feminism, Secularism, Casticism, Humanism, Orthodoxism, Religionism, Modernism, Pan- Slavism, Renaissance and Reformation are observed in the novels. Therefore 'Novel' as a chief literary genre is propagating and acknowledging social structure of different ages separately , though in the rays of fiction or imagination but in co-relation with the realistic picture of that particular era.

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