

## The rise of the novel in the 18<sup>th</sup> century

A lecture prepared by Lecturer Sabah S. Jabbar

ظهور الرواية في القرن الثامن عشر

اعداد/ المدرس صباح سالم جبار

Prose / 2<sup>nd</sup> year class

College of Languages / Department of English Language

1<sup>st</sup> term / the novel

The novel appeared as a new literary genre in the 18<sup>th</sup> century following the movement of **Realism**. It was **an age of scientific discoveries and industrial revolution**. It was **an age of reading and writing** and **an age of reason**. The mentality of people changed completely and found that previous types of prose don't fit to their mentality especially after the decline of Drama. Readers refused to read works did not have any relationship with their existence as human beings and the changed happened in the society. Previous types of prose used to introduce fable stories with supernatural heroes or supernatural creatures.

Realism helped writers to pick **characters** from real life where people can find their problems and agonies.

Realism encouraged writers to pick **real place and real time (setting)**. A setting that belongs to people themselves: cities from England and time of the age.

Realism helped writers to get rid of boring and fragmented **plots** and introduce new ones that depend on the Aristotle's concept of plot: a well-made plot that has a beginning, middle and an end.

Realism helped novelists also to develop **previous narrative techniques**.

Three major types of narrative techniques which are introduced by the first three novelists in the 18<sup>th</sup> century:

- I narrator: it is usually called memoir or autobiography. The novelist introduces the life of one character by using the first person pronoun (I).

- Omniscient narrator: this narrator can move from one place to another from town to town and can enter closed rooms and houses. Moreover it can enter the heart and mind of the characters to show the working of the mind of the characters.

- Epistolary technique: in this type, the novel is written in letters. The chapters carry the title: letter 1, letter 2.... Etc. characters exchange letters between them. In this way the characters should be separated.

The students should have an idea about the defects of these techniques which we discussed in details in our lectures.

## Types of the Novel

### **Realistic Novel:**

This type attempts to introduce a fictional work of art to give the effect of realism. It is sometimes called a novel of manner. This type of the novel can be characterized by its complex characters with mixed motives that are rooted in social class and operate according to highly developed social structure. The

characters in realistic novel interact with other characters and undergo plausible and everyday experiences. There are many examples: Defoe's *Moll Flanders*

### **Picaresque Novel:**

A picaresque novel relates the adventures of an eccentric or disreputable hero in episodic form. This type gets its name from the Spanish word *pícaro* (servant boy), or "rogue". This servant moves from one house to another from one country to another passing several experiences

Examples: Henry Fielding's *Joseph Andrews*

### **Historical Novel:**

A Historical novel is a novel set in a period earlier than that of the writing. It deals with history as a background to introduce the complex social relationships.

Examples: Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*, Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*

### **Epistolary Novel:**

Epistolary fiction is a popular genre where the narrative is told via a series of documents or letters. The word epistolary comes from Latin where 'epistola' means a letter. Letters are the most

common basis for epistolary novels but diary entries are also popular

Examples: Samuel Richardson's *Pamela*.

### **Bildungsroman:**

German term that indicates a growth. This fictional autobiography concerned with the development of the protagonist's mind, spirit, and characters from childhood to adulthood.

Examples: *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens

### **Gothic Novel:**

Gothic novel includes terror, mystery, horror, thriller, supernatural, doom, death, decay, old haunted buildings with ghosts and so on.

Examples: Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, John William Polidori's *The Vampire*, Bram Stoker's *Dracula*

### **Autobiographical Novel:**

An autobiographical novel is a novel based on the life of the author.

Examples: Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*, *Great Expectations*, D. H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*.

### **Satirical Novel:**

Satire is loosely defined as art that ridicules a specific topic in order to provoke readers into changing their opinion of it. By attacking what they see as human folly, satirists usually imply their own opinions on how the thing being attacked can be improved.

Examples: George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, Joseph Heller's *Catch 22*, Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

### **Allegorical Novel:**

An allegory is a story with two levels of meaning- surface meaning and symbolic meaning. The symbolic meaning of an allegory can be political or religious, historical or philosophical.

Examples:, William Golding's *The Lord of the Flies*

### **Regional Novel:**

A regional novel is a novel that is set against the background of a particular area. The novelist in this type portrays the habits and conventions of a society.

Examples: Novels of Charles Dickens, George Eliot etc.

