



NEW LITERARY GENRES

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KEYWORDS :

Language is the medium we use to express our emotions, ideas and feelings. It is the ability of humans to use communication systems. Language is the greatest treasure human beings possess. Henry Sweet, an English phonetician and language scholar had defined language as the expression of ideas by means of speech sounds combined into words. Literature can be analyzed as an art form having great artistic values. In its broad sense, literature includes written works. It is in literature that the concrete outlook of humanity receives its expression – Henry North Whitehead. Genre is a class or category having a particular form, content, technique etc. Literary genre is a category of literary compositions. A genre could be determined by its content, tone, length, or literary technique. There are four important genres in English Language. They are poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and drama. But, now we could see and understand that new literary genres have started to evolve in English for contemporary writing and writers.

The readers and writers of this contemporary period are increasingly forming new literary genres in English that bend traditional conventions and rules. Genres that explore and transcend new thematic territory are being constantly invented and defined now, especially in the light of the rising popularity of eBooks. There are five new literary genres evolved or formed in English for contemporary readers and writers. They are (1) New Adult genre, (2) Nordic Noir or Scandinavian Noir, (3) Climate fiction genre, (4) Twitter short story genre, and (5) New Weird genre. The New Adult genre is a recent introduction to the literary world. It invites us to a new understanding of protagonists between 18-25 years of age. Various writers currently adapt this genre in order to combine the themes of young adulthood with the realistic style of adult novels. The New Adult genre has gained more attention since 2012. Authors of this genre include Jamie McGuire, author of *Beautiful Disaster*, and Tammara Webber, author of *Easy*.

Nordic Noir or Scandinavian Noir genre is concerned of dark, morally complex moods and settings. This genre is characterized by direct, concise prose related to Scandinavian crime, political injustice, and social inequality. The protagonists of these are often detectives or police officers. Author of this genre include Steig Larsson, author of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and its sequels, and Henning Mankell, author of *'Faceless Killers'*. Climate Fiction genre is also referred to as Cli-fi. It is a genre of climate change and global warming. Cli-fi is a genre closely related to science fiction. This genre seeks to raise awareness of the threats of global warming and climate change. Example of this genre is *Back to the Garden* by Clara Hume. Climate Fiction genre had been discussed by a number of writers like Margaret Atwood, Kim Stanley Stevenson, Amitav Ghosh etc. The term Cli-fi was coined by Taiwan based blogger Danny Bloom in 2007 in a trial to market his e-book *Polar City Red*. The term Cli-fi which came into use in the late 2000s, describes fiction that deals with man-made climate change. Historically, there have been many number of literary works that deal with climate change as a natural disaster. One example is Jules Verne's 1889 novel *'The Purchase of the North Pole'*, which imagines a natural disaster due to the tilting of Earth's axis.

The Twitter short story genre has inspired other authors to try their hand at brevity on social media. David Mitchell, the award winning author of *'Cloud Atlas'*, surprised the whole world when he released an entire short story through a series of tweets. Some authors who attempted to use this genre include Ian Rankin, Helen Fielding, and David Mitchell. Authors are turning Twitter into a literary genre, 140 characters at a time. The 140 character maximum imposed by the medium provides a creative challenge for the writers. So far, twenty one authors have tried their hands at 140 character novels, such as

Geoff Dyer, James Meek, Jackie Collins and so on. Twitter genre is a slightly different art form and it creates an all new experience of fiction.

New Weird genre is a literary genre that blurs the lines between fantasy, science fiction, and supernatural horror genres. Stories in this genre typically involve realistic versions of contemporary life mixed with paranormal and fantasy elements. Notable authors of this genre include Jeff Vander Meer, author of *'The Southern Reach Trilogy'*, and K.J. Bishop, author of *'The Etched city'*. The New Weird is a literary genre that began in the 1990s. It is developed in a series of novels and stories published from 2001 to 2005. The writers involved are mostly novelists who are considered to be parts of the horror or speculative fiction genres.

There is a silent revolution taking place in the world now. It does not involve guns and swords, but something mightier: the Pen. New genres are growing and becoming popular at a steady rate. The writers of today get attracted to new literary genres. And it is a great sign for English language.

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