

Course Title:

The Rise of the Novel

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جامعة الملك فيصل

عمادة التعلم الإلكتروني والتعليم عن بعد

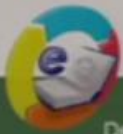


Plan of the Lecture



Introduction

In this course, there are two main approaches to the English novel; historical and practical. The historical approach deals with introducing a general political and social background of the eighteenth century that affected the rise of the English novel.



Then, to read and analyze any novel, there is a need to get familiar with the general aspects of the novel such as setting, characters, theme, point of view, etc. In the practical approach, there is an analysis of selected literary texts from the 18th century focusing on *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe.



Historical and Cultural Background of England in the 18th Century

The 18th century is usually referred to as the age of enlightenment because it brought light to the human mind. The previous ages were dark and there was negative attitude toward new ideas of any kind. Thomas Paine called the 18th century the age of reason. The reason depends on thinking and using of the human mind.



According to *The Norton Anthology of English literature*, In the previous ages of the 18th century, the universe seemed a small place. Less than six thousand years old, the earth was the center of the universe where a single sun moved around it.



The 18th century opened new areas of vision. New discoveries appeared, the people of this age knew a lot of information more than the ancient people.



عنوان.....

- Politics had a great impact on the 17th century and 18th century literature in England.
- During this period, England was a great power in the world, even it became the most powerful empire.



- This created self-confidence for the English writers, they were influenced by the political situation.
- 1660: was the date of restoring the monarchy by king Charles II. He came from Paris to England.



- Many changes happened because of the restoration of Charles II:
 - 1- The Anglican Church became the established church
 - 2- Theaters were reopened
 - 3- More freedom in writing. Many writers criticized people's lives



- Religion and its influence
- Religion had a great influence on writers of the 17th and 18th centuries
- They couldn't ignore religion. They were involved by religion



- There were reasons for that involvement:

1- Writers couldn't only depend on books they wrote (not enough money or even no money gained at all) Therefore, some writers were priests or preachers



- 2- A lot of people didn't read
- 3- Poor people didn't have time or money to spend on reading. They worked 12 hours a day and more.



- Although there were no political parties in the modern sense, there were **two groups**

1- Tory group. Later, they developed their name to **Conservative Party**- The high class who supported the church. They were very rich.

2- Whig group. Later, they developed their name to **Liberal Party**- The rising city middle class of traders and other money-men.



- Later there was another party found in 1900 which became the third party in England

3- The Labor Party- including people who don't have a lot of money – workers



- Charles II established the Royal Society which was a center for writers and scientists.
- Charles II died in 1685.
- He left no children. So his Brother , James II, succeeded him.
- The illegitimate son of Charles II wanted to be the king. He led an uprising against James II, but he failed.



- Mary the elder daughter of James, was married to William of Orange, ruler of the United Provinces of Holland.
- William and Mary were secretly offered the throne.



In 1688 William crossed the English Channel with small army. The English people supported him and James II escaped to France. It was called **the Glorious Revolution** because there was no bloodshed.

- William and Mary were crowned in 1689



- After the death of Mary, William ruled till 1702
- Queen Anne, the younger sister of Mary II, ruled from 1702-1714.
- Then came the rule Of George I (1714-1727), George II (1727-1760), and George III (1760-1820). During the eighteenth century, England had settled into a period of order, at least among the upper classes.



The Augustan Age, this came from the name of the first Roman emperor, Augustus, who lived in the first century A.D. Augustus is the adopted son of Julius Caesar who was murdered by a group of aristocrats. Then the Civil War followed that. The real name of Augustus was Octavian. Stability and peace came after the Civil War ended. Literature also flourished after the Civil War.



England After the Restoration in (1660) was similar to Rome- what happened in England was like what happened in Rome.

The writers of England appreciated highly the classical literature of ancient Greece and Rome. They translated old classical literature and tried to imitate it. They thought that "human nature does not change , there is nothing in fact could be discovered"



Kinds of literature at the 17th and 18th centuries

Drama

That age was the age of reason. The interest in feeling was not totally forgotten, but the interest was in the sentimental comedy.

There was no importance of tragedy.

There were no great tragedies at that time.



Examples of great comedies:

She stoops to Conquer by Goldsmith

The School for Scandal , The Critic By
Sheridan

Drama was also the vehicle for the political comments of writers until subjected to censorship after the License Act of 1737.



This act was against drama. No play could be performed without a license.

For that reason, drama had been weakened. As a result of that novels flourished and grew quickly in the 18th century (We will see that later in the reasons behind the rise of the novel)



Poetry

All kind of poetry were written in the 18th century. There was a tendency to keep the achievements of earlier ages. The epics which were written in old ages were kept. The best poetry in the 18th century is that which is concerned with man and his social aspects. Poets were involved in public life.



The 18th century was rich in producing many types of literature. In addition to the traditional types of literature which were known before, such as drama , poetry...etc.

Several new types grew in this age such as:

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Literary criticism | 4. Autobiography |
| 2. Letter writing | 5. Travels as an art of writing |
| 3. History as an art of writing | 6. Biography |



- Nearly at the end of the 18th century, 1798 is a very important literary date. It is the beginning of a new movement which is Romanticism. This date is a kind of declaration. There is a very important book appeared in this year. It is a collection of poems.



The beginning of the Romantic Period is usually identified with the publication of this book, ***Lyrical Ballads*** (1798) By William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge.



So The age of reason was followed by the romantic period. Simply, romanticism was a reaction against reason. It was going back to the emotional rather than the rational. It indicated that there were a lot of good things about humanity not based on reason.



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