

# Recent Trends in English Literature

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**Abstract:** This paper aims to study and illustrate how recent trends has changed the face of literature. The e-book technology, digital media, blogging and other forms of social networking play a significant role in English literature today. Effortless and high-speed access to internet through mobile phones and computers has made the man impatient, edgy and hungry for knowledge. No one has time to stop, to read and to enjoy. Books, newspapers, journals have taken a back-seat in this electronic-age. Cybernetic reading is displacing linear, closed, solitary reading. It is transforming the process of literary reading. Digital Media also proves to be important in improving the access and academic analysis of English literature. Literary works can be reviewed, and individuals may discuss various issues through social media. Studies that would previously take much time and work are simplified by increased access to literary works in the form of e-books and audio versions of novels and stories. Moreover, research articles and reviews are availed in various blogs that a scholar may access. However, some thinkers feel that social media, in particular, is inhibiting the development of art and literature. Various disadvantages are associated with modern technology regarding the decrease in quality of literary works.

**Keywords:** social networking digital media exchange of ideas easy access quality of literary works.

## Introduction: -

Literature has faced uncountable changes ever since its existence. Passing through all the ages, it has flourished richly. In the age of cybernetics, literature has become an art form. It's being redefined as per the needs of a younger population. Modern tools have helped literature become an equalizer between the haves and the have-not. SMS has created new room for urban quotations and poems. Stories can now be presented in 140 characters or less. No wonder we say the world is growing smaller. Flash fiction and micro-fiction have side lined long elaborative patterns of writing. Earlier people used to spend hours in libraries searching and reading up on information for their answers and papers. Now, however all one needs to do is GOOGLE it!

Literature has always been a vital part of global history, it is a productive skill that reflects on the norms of society, ethos of culture, values, beliefs and traditions (Albrecht, 1954). It reflects on the norms of society, ethos of culture, values, beliefs and traditions (Albrecht, 1954). It is not just perceived as an accessory, it is the "fundamental sine qua non" of complete living (Bennett, 1961) that has undergone numerous transformations throughout history to contemporary times. We can reflect on reality through literature and view it as a piece of art, a door through which new ideas and perspectives can blossom. It has been a method of conveying messages to other individuals throughout the world, through a language that is understood within society. Literature enables the documentation, records and learnings for future generations to call upon. It can take the form of informative journals, studies, fictional and nonfictional books and novels, poems, prose, diaries etc. Therefore, it embodies a manifestation of wonderful ideologies and facts, emotions that can inspire current and future generations. Literature is the way that writers can communicate with their readers, with many good writers using careful sensitive language that appeal to their readers. Many aim to preserve the humanistic traditions within society through noting their ideologies within literature. The English language has become the local language most important in specialized areas including education and technology (Blanco, Marcher, & Fernandez-Manjon, 2011). Therefore, it is not surprising that English literature is a very popular method of communicating throughout the world. It is important for all readers to stay open to interpretation and understand different outlook approaches, some of which may contradict another.

**Objective:** - The aim of this study is to examine the current trends of literature and how its outlook approaches have shaped the future of English literature.

**Method:** - This study was conducted by means of a systematic literature review. Electronic databases, books, journals, and magazines were searched to identify primary literature sources relating to current trends of literature. Relevant publications and grey literature sources were identified through a well-planned literature search.

Many traditional literatures are now accessible through online platforms and form a bases of modern-day literature. New trends are replacing the linear, solitary and closed reading with the internet, causing a transformation in the way literature is written, perceived and read. There is a wide spread of information available some of which is balanced literature while others are biased and linked to virtual or mass media ties. In the past there was a lot of emphasis on authors and histories however, writers who are renowned as literary scholars are now integrating and investigating objects that are non-textual cultural, in the way that they would have previously examined literature. This is renowned textuality (Moretti, 2000) which is characterized through the way in which objects are read, identified and perceived. It can be categorized through fictionality, rhetoricity and historicity. When a cultural object is formed textually for example it is built, moulded, woven or shaped it can be perceived as an artefact. Likewise, literary fiction is not governed by natural laws however, it may be perceived as following rules of artifice. This is largely because it presents non-testable claims to truth. Rhetoricity assumes that language has a probable purpose or effect, while historicity is governed by artefacts that are from a time period and conditioned over time. Their past is vital to their meaning, enabling people to show interest through literature and connect. Globalization and technological advancements have created a change in the methods through which literature is conveyed and perceived. The way literature is studied by modern day scholars has transformed predominantly onto digital platforms which can be accessed anywhere from a digital device. It is quick, convenient, inexpensive and generally accessible. It allows easy access to vital information and exchanging ideas allowing literature to be analysed. But, within the fast pace of life new trends in literature have been formed that consist of short, challenging and creative stories enabling writers to explore their creative abilities. The '6-word novel' is a new field for writers to experiment. "After she died, he came alive" by Rebecca James and "One gun, two shots, three dead" by Marcy are examples of a six-word novel. This is a new fashion of writing which is challenging and creative. It may be easy to write a long, narrative and detailed novel but writing a novel as short as six words requires innovation. Hundred years back no one would have thought of writing a novel in six words. Mr. Dickens is definitely turning in his grave. Six-word novels leave the reader curious and thoughtful. The meaning is also left to reader's interpretation. It requires a lot of creativity and imagination... We are moving ever closer to the concept of the "Death of the Author", that Roland Barthes had propounded. The text now has more and more "gaps" that makes it more and more "readerly" than "writerly". Literature is also an art of writing; the above-mentioned forms are not only new trends and ways of enhancing but also re-altering art. It has diverse, exigent and very spontaneous forms and unlike the conventional. It has gained immense popularity. It gives you the pleasure of knowledge and quenches your curiosity in small and controlled doses. It definitely creates new and different genres of literature. These forms have come in to acceptance because of their popular demand. These new and recent trends are unimaginable concepts from the point of view of anyone living a few decades ago. Blogging, twittering, micro blogging, 6-word novels, all of them are changing the trends of literature with regards to reading and writing. It's giving opportunity to upcoming talent and is helping decentralize the processes of who gets to publish what in the world of literature.

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writing. It's giving opportunity to upcoming talent and is helping decentralize the processes of who gets to publish what in the world of literature.

Of course, these new trends are fascinating and interesting but, according to some literary purists, it is degrading the classics and the conventions of literature. Literary purists are put off by internet slang, which according to them gives rise to the abuse of language and superficiality. Grammar is lost and has almost disappeared in today's scenario. SMS languages have ruined the role of vocabulary and spelling. Spellings with missing vowels are now growing famous. The fast-paced life is short-lived for literature. No longer do many want to learn the details of any book, grammar or even poetry. Somehow, Classics are now growing old fashioned and boring. Anything that is short and interesting is definitely catchy for today's generation. We want to know everything now! Who cares if it's missing a comma or two or that it lacks in depth and research. Lastly in cybernetic culture, hypertext may survive as an art form by offering pleasures of virtual immediacy, spontaneity, rich web of texts in various media and interactivity for the reader. Literature as a form of art, can be studied in depth; adding more weightage to the content. Otherwise, the subject in itself is losing its importance and charm. Hypertext version can be the boon to revive Literature. For e.g., D.G. Rossetti's "The Blessed Damozel" in its hypertext version will have the poem and the painting juxtaposed. Using zoom in and zoom out the student and/or reader can view the relevant sections of the painting and be able to relate better with the poem. How many times have we literature students heard the word "boring" being tagged along with our stream of study. The decisive moment of literary life will be that of reading. Mankind is beginning to understand how to dismantle and reassemble the most complex and unpredictable of all its machines: Language.

This has resulted in debates amongst researchers implying that the varieties of English standards are affected through the development of internet based English learning (Kern, 2006). However, it can also be argued that English online is a linguistic revolution, and has given rise to a new form of literature and internet linguistics (Crystal, 2011). The rise of electronic books (E-books) has been proven to encourage reading literature and improve reading and writing skills despite location (Schiff, 2003). This is because they can be assessed from any digital device including smartphones and tablets. It allows readers to analyse historic literature on one device, in comparison to collecting numerous physical books to read. The contemporary lifestyle and habitat are vastly different to the past hence, causing literature to transform to a vastly different social and technological world. It has been proven that the influence of social media is a contributing factor towards this change in writing styles within literature, some authors believing it has a positive impact (Lamy & Zourou, 2013). However, results have also shown that social media is replacing traditional reading cultures with new literature, that is inhibiting art and culture development (Morris & Philippa, 2015). Many social media platforms allow literature in the form of stories, that can be read by numerous people. This can cause a conflict between literature found on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter, in comparison to literature written in a traditional form. The literature available in modern day is expressed in many ways still inclusive of art and books, generally associated with being read by serious avid readers. Within history, it allows the generation of new ideas and a platform for writers to express their outlook on various topics, ranging from health like in the current Covid-19 pandemic, political aspects, religious viewpoints and social issues. They can also be expressed through visual re-presentations like films, newspapers, magazines and journals. Literature will always be available despite the era we reside in, time or place. English literature is appreciated by the whole world and the desired medium of transmission, fortunately the modern era allows global accessibility to this literature.

**Conclusion:** - This study has deduced that literature has evolved using digital platforms. There has been significant impact on literature as a result of the cultural transitions that have taken place over the recent years. This has increased, due to the current covid-19 pandemic as social distancing measures have forced a transition of more literature available through technological platforms. The current trends in literature are stemming from the technological platforms, including social media, blogging, videos, mobile apps and e-books influencing modern day literature. There is still inconclusive evidence to suggest the full impact on literature as a result of social media trends, although positive and negative effects have been discussed. Fortunately,

literature available in modern day still allows literary experiences to stimulate International Journal of Arts, Humanities & Social Science Vol. 01 - Issue: 04/ September\_2020 26 | Current Trends in Modern Day Literature: Parin Somani self-growth and understanding between people who are not like minded. We can learn about different cultures, heritages, languages and ways of living, so that the marginalized have a voice, social injustices can cease and through this we can create a better world.

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