

C. Write a detailed note on the development of the 20th century novel.

[1] Introduction:

Like modern poetry, twentieth-century novel also came to be influenced by the developments taking place in the world. The note of scepticism and uncertainty creeping into the works of the late Victorian and Edwardian fiction further deepened. World War II and the attendant social and political happenings deepened the sense of uncertainty and exposed human mind to new forms of experience. Eliot and Pound looked towards French poetry for rejuvenating English poetry while Yeats went to his native Irish resources, similarly, novelists like Henry James. James Joyce and Virginia Woolf found the much-needed dynamism in the French and Russian traditions of novel writing. Besides literature, a great deal was taking place in the world of ideas and scientific research in Europe, which had serious bearings on the new English fiction... "Many novelists contributed their best in the genre of the novel of the Twentieth Century.

[2] The Contribution of Henry James:

Henry James was a great novelist of his era who gave no attention to plot construction in the traditional sense, since he was essentially an impressionist. There is a major intellectual element in his fiction which went on increasing with his development. There is little scope for elemental passions and James's interest in sensationalism lies in the character's mental energy, their motives and urges; he begins, unlike George Eliot and George Meredith, from the external surface of their lives and goes on to probe the inner life, as can be seen in the portrayal of Meally Theale, and Isabel Archer, Euphemia and Lambert Strether. James attached considerable importance to the idea that an artist should seize upon whatever impressions life afforded him. James considered the greatest blessing of art to be its ability to make him intimate with experience that otherwise he could never hope to know. He wrote such momentous works as Roderick Hudson (1876), The American (1877), The Europeans (1878), Washington Square (1881), The Portrait of a Lady (1881), The Bostonians (1884), The Wings of the Dove (1902), The Ambassadors (1904), The Golden Bowl (1904), and stories such as What Knew, Turn of the Screw, The Real Thing, etc. He also wrote works of autobiographical interest like A Small Boy and Others (1913), Notes of a Son and

Brother (1914), *The Middle Years* (1917). James was a remarkable innovator aiming to “Compel us to love not the infinite variety of life, but life as fine consciousness and conscience”.

G.S.Fraser calls him the novelist of the;

“privileged beings, extremely rich, the terribly innocent, splendidly self-sacrificing rich, the fine ruthless takers, and the gallant sufferers.”

[3] *The Role of Joseph Conrad:*

Joseph Conrad (1857-1924) was another master novelist whose interest Focused on the character, the human spirit labouring under stress of critics. He Served on British cargo ships and it is here that he learned English. His experiences On the sea and voyages to difficult lands enriched over 20 years at the end of which He wrote his first novel *Almayer's Folly* (1895). It is at this time that Conrad came in Contact with Ford Madox Ford who must have initiated him into a new use to which Novel writing could be put. As Harry Blamires says, Conrad and he found themselves equally dissatisfied with the Traditional method of shaping fiction in a series of dramatic Situations.” Conrad was fascinated by situations that tested men's strength and stamina and was Attracted by the physical reality. His realities are, however, clothed in romantic charm And ‘adventurous exaltation”. Fidelity in human relations preoccupies him Under Western Eye and Lord Jim focussing on the moral values rather than metrical ones. He himself wrote; “.. (it is) my primary conviction that truth alone is the justification of Any fiction which makes the least claim to the quality of art.” Joseph Conrad created narrator like Marlowe who took over partly the all-controlling, All-knowing qualities of the traditional author.

This unseen omniscience (Hdstr) of the narrator given him by the author is a Distancing himself from the subject and yet retaining control over it. His Reputation rests on three major novels, *Lord Jim* (1900), *Heart of Darkness* and *Nostromo* (1904). Besides he also wrote *The Nigger of the Narcissus*, *The Shadow Line*. *The Arrow of Gold*. *The Rescue*, *The Rover Tales of Hearsay*, *Outcasts of the Island*. His other writings include short stories, short novels, and Autobiographical and critical works like the *Mirror of the Sea*. Some Reminiscences, *Notes of Life and Letters* and *Notes on My Books*. Dr. F.R. Leavis called him ‘very original technically. Normally, adventure Stories are told in a straightforward way, taking episodes one after the other, Conrad Likes to begin in the middle, or at the climax.

[4] *Literary Outputs of D. H. Lawrence :*

D.H. Lawrence (1855-1930) was born in Nottinghamshire and grew up amid coal mining people whom he observed and later on portrayed in his fiction. He began Writing poems early in life, some of

which got published in English Review in 1909. He travelled extensively to Germany, Italy, Australia, America and Me He is considered one of the finest novelists of the twentieth century, raising Over writing to the refined and cultivated level where it became a means of probing E Submerged(Ss) urges and motives of character and unravelling those unseen ties of energy that bind men and women together. Lawrence viewed culture and civilization as “the painted fungus of rottenness”. He believed in natural animal instinct as the true guide of men Anti-culture, Anti-intellectual Stand Lawrence feels that man-made cultural systems have stifled(iolnu) our real Vitality made us incapable of using, real natural gifts. In his novels the ugliness and distortion generated by cities have been highlighted. He felt that in order to regain the primeval vitality man must recognise his inner muted animal instinct and release it, thus adding greater depth of significance to his life. In his Greatest novel The Rainbow the colliers who are always men of another darker life, wait in their warped, stiffened(86RU) bodies for the great liberation, and Over the sad corrupted landscape glows the premature rainbow. Related to his intensely anti-cultural stand is his view of the use of intellect as an impediment to the proper formation of relations and recognition of one’s own self. In his work The Study of Thomas Hardy he observes that The greater part of every life is underground, like roots in the dark in contact with the beyond Lawrence was interested in individual life and set its goal as perfection of his/her life. He believed that every individual leads a life of isolation. In the famous essay Edger Allan Poe Lawrence writes.

“The central law of all organic life is that each organism is intrinsically isolated and single in itself. The moment its isolation breaks down and there comes an actual mixing and confusion, death sets in.”

→ Sexual Mysticism:

Out of this D.H. Lawrence constructed his unique philosophy of sexual mysticism which emphasizes that the “final aim is not to know, but to be”. A strange magnetism exists between the sexes which releases a flux of energy or Natural primeval attraction in both directions. D.H. Lawrence makes subtle artistic use of features to highlight this sexual energy. He turned this into a kind of cult, a religious dogma and novel after novel went on depicting its relevance with a moralist’s insistence. He probes his character’s inner world, their urges and motives, their coming together and swinging apart in big swooping oscillations through the physical level of their relations. However, his descriptions are only a way of physical relation revealing the mysterious workings of their individual instincts.

Lawrence’s stories The Fox, The woman who Rode Away, Odour of photosynthesis, The White Stocking, The Lovely Lady, and his novels, The White Peacock, The Man who Died represent his whole-hearted exploration and presentation of this a strange mysticism. Lawrence was so preoccupied with his beliefs that in his Study of Thomas Hardy he deals less with the author whom he admired greatly more than with his philosophy of sex.

→ Charge of obscenity:

Lawrence has always remained at the centre of controversy. His frank treatment of sex led to charges of obscenity and pornography against him. The *Rainbow* was dragged into the court and the book was banned for some time. Similarly, *Lady Chatterley's Lover* contained passages that he was forced to delete. Lawrence was also a good painter, some of his drawings depicted nudity and sexual acts which got him into trouble. D.H. Lawrence wished to rid mankind of the shame complex which led men and women to associate sex with the idea of indecency. It was blasphemy in the opinion of the author. He said; "I want men and women to be able to think of sex, fully, completely honestly and cleanly." He was disturbed by the manner in which sex was generally treated, dragging it through mud and shame.

The Invention of Stream of Consciousness Novel:

In the early years of the twentieth-century some bold experiments were made in order to enable the writer to equip with proper narrative methods so that the essence of the modern experience could be accurately expressed. One such bold step was taken by authors like James Joyce and Virginia Woolf who wrote their novels in the stream of consciousness technique heralding a revolutionary change in the way the novelists used their techniques and perceived reality. 'Stream of consciousness novels' reflect the disintegration of established values, experimentation with form, the blurring of objective reality and dissolution of certainties in all fields of thought. This kind of novel represents external a withdrawal from the reality into the dim twilight world of the character's private emotions and sense impressions. Apparently though it may appear into his inner world, that the writer is withdrawing the phenomenon may also be render regarded as deliberate effort to literary medium a new realization of experience as a process of renewal. Stream of dynamic consciousness fiction was very much findings of Carl influenced by psychological Jung, and Sigmund Freud and the "free-association school"

The novelist, interested in the 'inner drama' of mind, finds the stream of technique wonderfully suited to his purpose, revealing side of the the hidden characters consciousness. He therefore, resorts to evocative which stand for values and symbols significance derived from a pattern in this experience. He tries to discover apparently confused collection of obsessive images.

It has exposed the serious limitations of traditional novelists like Arnold Bennett, H.G. Wells, John Galsworthy and others, and brought into the centre or debate the question of what constitutes Reality-external observable bits and pieces, Or the hidden vortices of impressions. This stand establishes that character is a process and not state and only through stream of consciousness can this be brought to light. It was William James who first used the phrase 'Stream of Consciousness in his *Principles of Psychology* (1890) to describe the flux of conscious and sub-conscious thoughts and impressions. A parallel description can be found in

Bergson's account (1889) of *élan* (style) vital popularized in England by Shaw. However, its true practitioners were James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, Dorothy Richardson and William Faulkner. Dorothy Richardson's *Pointed Roofs* (1915) is the first of the

Series of novels known as *Pilgrimage* (1935). Though the technique solely dominated the works of these novelists from 1915 to 1941 it was a part of the larger fictional framework with such authors as Graham Greene, Katherine Anne Porter, Eudora Welty, Robert Penn Warren, and Elizabeth Bowen.

[5] The Literary Contribution of James Joyce:

James Joyce (1882-1941) is recognised as a great proponent (promoter) of the experimental novel who gave a new depth to the psychologically oriented fiction. The psychologist Carl Gustav Jung is said to have expressed amazement at the Depth of understanding which Joyce displays in *Ulysses* in dealing with the thoughts and desires of a woman. His magnificent use of the stream of consciousness technique still remains unsurpassed. James Joyce began by writing short stories that were collected in a volume *Dubliners* (1914). These stories are written in plain and simple style and focus on the lives of the slum dwellers of Dublin. He was highly admired by T.S. Eliot, Pound and Samuel Beckett. He was always in conflict with the Irish Catholics and the Irish nationalistic movement.

The volume *Dubliners* seems to show these things, to betray "the soul of the hemiplegia or paralysis which many consider a city" as C.P. Curran wrote *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* was published in 1916. Critics regard it as a proclamation of his breaking away from Ireland- its society religion, politics It's an years of Autobiographical Growing up novel. Its hero Stephen Dedalus reflects the author's early *Ulysses*, his masterpiece, was published in Paris in 1922 in which he is supposed to have made the best use of stream of consciousness technique. While it is praised by one group of scholars as inaugurator of a new style of fiction, there is another experimental school of critics that deplores it as complexity which unnecessarily introducing brings novel to the dead-end. Set in Dublin, it wanders depicts the of Leopold Bloom and Stephen Dedalus a through the streets of Dublin on particular day. 16th June, 1904, attends a funeral, indulges in meal, worries *Cetaphil*, eats a about his wife, his money, his whose daughter, his head and meets Stephen he rescues from a drunken brawl outside a brothel.

Its incoherent style has discouraged many from reading it willingly, the reason Being an "unending stream of Bloom's consciousness poring out his half articulate impression of the day".

The "Stream of consciousness technique presents the inner working of the characters mind which often sounds like "a catalogue of Bloom's mental furniture and also a catalogue of everything that Bloom does and sees and hears. Joyce turned to Homer's *Odyssey* to provide the basic structure to his work and emphasize the universality of his story.

[6] The Contribution of Virginia Woolf:

Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) was another powerful writer whose use of The stream of consciousness technique remains the finest example till today. She was the daughter of the great Victorian critic and scholar Sir Leslie Stephen and showed great originality as a thinker of her times which is exemplified in her wonderful book *A Room of Her own* which is regarded as a feminist work. Her earliest novels, *The Voyages out* (1915) and *Night and Day* (1919) are conventional but soon she felt Dissatisfied with the style of Beckett-and-Galsworthy tradition, and turned away from It. She adopted the psychological method of James Joyce seeking to explore the essential truth. She was interested in the life of the spirit. Her great novels were written in the 1920s and 1930s. *Mrs. Dalloway* came out in 1925; *To the Light house* in 1927, *Orlando* in 1928 and *The Waves* in 1931. They are the works on which the eminence of this courageous innovative novelist rests. Wolf did not give much value to the plot, and the external world is quite limited and unimportant therefore, her characters also are quite limited. She Fry, belonged to CliveTo Bell, the Bloomsbury Group, which included E.M. Foster, Lord Keynes, Roger under Lytton Strachey, Desmond Mac Carthy among others. The Group was the influence of philosopher G.E. Moore, who emphasized not the of God, importance politics or history but pleasant states of feeling that originated from the enjoyment of love, or friendship or the admiration of beauty, human in art, in nature, or in beings. In *The Waves* we find a maturation of her interior monologue experimentation the style which shows the essentially fluid nature of form-lessness of the which are personality. So The critics of Virginia Woolf point out those weak points in her strongly criticised in James Joyce: magnifying the trivial incidents.

[7] The Role of Dorothy Richardson:

Dorothy installments or serial novels in which the Pilgrimage story is told over several books. Her (1915-31) is one such work divided into thirteen separate books. The first of these novels in entitled *Pointed Roofs* (1915). As Blamires observes,

“She brought the stream of consciousness method into English fiction out of Objective realityDetermination With To match the masculine novel of a feminine subjectivity. Richardson transmuted her own experience into fiction by projecting herself in her Miriam heroine, Henderson.”

Her relationship with H.G. VWells led to some memorable turn of events in her Life, the science fiction writer was portrayed as Hypo Wison in Richardson’s work. Though she started to show everything through heroine’s senses, M.S. Richardson is Said to have made certain compromises failing to carry through with logical Consistency the experiment upon which she started.

Δ Conclusion:

To conclude we may say that the novels of the Present Age enrich the English literature. In this age novel achieves the zenith of the popularity. Stream of Consciousness Novel is the new product of the 20th century. In this century novel Has fully developed in may sense.

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