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**LECTURE SIX: The English Novel (Part Two)**

**12.1. Types of Novels**

The English novel counts several types of novel. Some definitions of them and examples are summarized from M.H. Abrams’s book (1999, p. 190-191) and introduced in the following sections.

**12.1.1. Picaresque Novel**

This type is originally from Spain. The term Picaresque came from the Spanish word *Picaro* which signifies a rogue or dishonest. Cervantes, the Spanish writer, wrote Don *Quixote* (1605) which initiates the history of the Picaresque novel. Thomas Nashe’s *The Unfortunate Traveller* is one of the best examples of the picaresque novel in English.

Picaresque is used for any long story with a number of separate events, sometimes comic, violent, or complex. It mostly deals with the adventure of the Hero, who traveled to different places. In English literature, Daniel Defoe and Henry Fielding, and Smollett wrote Picaresque novels too. Edwin Muir states that this genre is a very prominent category in English fiction. This novel type is realistic in style, episodic in construction, and satirical in aim.

**12.1.2. Epistolary Novel**

Epistolary is taken from the word “Epistle” which means letter. This type of novel is written in form of a chain of letters through which the main character communicates with others. Samuel Richardson wrote *Pamela or Virtue Rewarded* (1740), *Clarissa Harlowe* (1748) and *Sir Charles Grandison* (1753). It is important to note that these novels are entitled after the name of their protagonists.

**12.1.3. Domestic Novel**

The story deals with the social life and the daily lives of the characters. The beginning is made by Fanny Burney but the most admired promoter of the domestic novels is Jane Austen. Both authors are significant in the history of the domestic novels. Their novels are composed in a fine simplicity of style and show their qualified narrative ability and a great keenness for life.

**12.1.4. Gothic Novel**

The term ‘Gothic’ initially referred to ‘Goths’ as a Germanic tribe, then came to signiy ‘Germanic’ and then medieval. By the end of the 18th, the Novel of Terror or Gothic Novel appeared. The English Romantic Movement, which established its supreme expression in poetry, was displayed in a rather coarser and more primitive manner in the novel. The first terror novel was published by Horace Walpole’s *The Castle of Otranto* (1764). In this type of novel, the supernatural and terror are the principal characteristic. Emily Bronte (1818-1848) employed gothic elements in her novel *Wuthering Heights* (1847) in which the phantom of the protagonist Catherine appears and frightened people.

**12.1.5. Historical Novel**

It is a type of fictional narrative which tells the history and reproduces it artistically from an imaginative creation.Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) first who wrote a historical novel. Albert (1979) assumes that Scott “added a life-giving Force, a vitalizing energy, an insight, and a genial dexterity that made the historical novel an entirely new species” (p. 340). *Rob Roy* (1817) and *Ivanhoe* (1820) are two acknowledged historical novels he had written.

**12.1.6. The Comic Novel**

The characters are set in absurd situations. The comic novel can be brutal and have a negative vision of life. The word is shown as strange and absurdity is stressed. Laurence Sterne (1713-1768) wrote *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy* (1759) a comic novel on morals in which he included sentimentality and Tobias Smollett (1721-1771) the moralist and satirist who employed comedy to speak about what shocked him most in society as in *The Adventures of Roderick Random* (1748).