

THE EVOLUTION OF EPISTOLARY GENRE AND ITS NATURE IN WORLD LITERATURE

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Annotation: This article explores the development of epistolary genre and its peculiarities in world literature. The epistolary genre, which is distinguished by the use of letters, diary entries, and other kinds of correspondence, has a long and varied history in global literature. This distinct narrative approach allows for intimate glimpses into the thoughts and feelings of the characters, establishing a direct link between the author and the reader. The evolution of the epistolary genre reflects greater cultural, social, and technical shifts across time. The paper aims to examine the stages of its development in comparison with the early epistolary works in world literature, particularly English and Uzbek literature.

Key words: epistolary, letters, first person perspective, character development, Multiple Perspectives, realism, personal documents, narrators

Introduction

The epistolary novel, deriving its name from the Latin term "epistola," meaning letter, is a distinctive narrative form that incorporates letters, diary entries, and other forms of correspondence to tell a story. This genre allows for a unique exploration of character, perspective, and thematic intricacies in a manner that traditional narrative forms may not achieve.

The epistolary genre is considered to be works created in the form of letters, epistolary, or diaries. In the 18th century, writing novels in the form of letters became a tradition in European literature, including S. Richardson's "Pamela" and J.J. Rousseau's "Juliet: Or the New Eliosa". The roots of the epistolary novel can be traced back to early correspondence in literature, with significant development occurring in the 17th and 18th centuries. Samuel Richardson is often credited with popularizing the form through works like Pamela and Clarissa. His novels utilized letters to provide insight into character motivations and societal norms of the time, especially pertaining to gender and class. Writers from this era embraced the epistolary form for its ability to simulate real-life communication, capturing the voice and personality of characters effectively. This authenticity allowed readers to engage more intimately with the characters' thoughts and feelings. This genre of fiction developed especially during World War II, mainly during this period historical narratives and family chronicles were developed [2,436].

In Eastern literature, works based on letters also date back to the 14th and 15th centuries. In Uzbek literature, the epistolary genre is distinguished by its rich history, in particular, writers expressed their deep thoughts, personal experiences, and worldviews through letters. Many classical Uzbek poets, such as Alisher Navoi and Babur, incorporated elements of letter writing in their works, blending poetic expression with personal correspondence.

Materials and Discussion

Each style has its own characteristics, and the epistolary genre also differs from other styles. Epistolary novels frequently include letters from several characters, resulting in a diverse picture of the plot and emotional landscape. The employment of many reporters typically enhances the tale. Each character may provide a distinct perspective, resulting in a diverse tale. This multiplicity of voices can result in intricate linkages and divergent interpretations of events. Direct address in letters fosters a personal connection between the character and the reader, frequently creating a sense of immediacy. Correspondence can blur the bounds of time—letters can be written over extended periods of time, allowing for thought and revelation that linear storytelling does not allow. Because letters frequently contain intimate thoughts and feelings, the format enables authors to explore complex emotional states. Each author creates his or her work based on the characteristics given above, and the uniqueness of the work also depends on these characteristics.

Some other features of epistolary genre are as follows:

- First person Perspective;
- Character Development;
- Multiple Perspectives;
- Realism;
- Use of personal documents;
- Unreliable narrators.

According to first person perspective, epistolary works which are primarily written in the first person, fosters a deep connection between the reader and the character, allowing for the exploration of personal thoughts and feelings. Readers have direct access to the character's inner world, which increases emotional engagement. This gives the reader a vivid picture of the character's emotions and ideas. For example, Bram Stoker's "Dracula" is written entirely in first person through the protagonists' letters and diaries [3,158].

Character development of this genre is unique than other genres such as structure facilitates in-depth character analysis. Characters' motivations, problems, and growth are shown as they open up in letters or diary entries. This helps to develop well-rounded characters that change throughout the story.

The infographic convinces us that the story is developed even better depending on the type of correspondents that do come through. Each character does what they do best, meaning - provides a different point of view to the multifaceted plot that has been built. This multitude implies intricate relationships and contesting interpretations of this event or any other. Most such novels consist of letters where every character is allowed to write separately. Therefore, there are many possible interpretations for one written scene. To exemplify, in Alice Walker's 'The Color Purple', numerous letters and journal entries are exchanged between two major characters, Celie and Nettie, providing an insight into their views about the same issue. Because each character in the epistolary novel writes their own letters, it is possible to examine various perspectives on the same event or situation. For example, Alice Walker's "The Color Purple" is written in the form of letters and diary entries between the two key characters, Celie and Nettie, allowing for a study of their differing perspectives on their shared experiences

The addition of the structure makes the narrative even more realistic. The combination of letters and diaries gives the work a sort of documentaries, which often evokes strong feelings and situations for the readers' sympathy.

Gives a sense of realism, since the audience gets the impression that they are reading someone's letters.

A number of literary figures across the globe have penned down their epistolary novels with great inspiration from personal letters. This has contributed to making their works even more real and realistic. In her epistolary novels, there is frequent use of personal documents, such as letters and diaries, to advance the storyline, or newspaper clippings. For example: Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* has letters written by the chief characters as illustrations – letters which describe what their protagonists have felt or done and other characters' written excerpts about their subjects.

Unreliable narrators: in epistolary novels characters are writing their own letters, so they are not necessarily reliable narrators, and the audience may have to read between the lines to piece together the story. For example: a letter is used in "Dangerous Liaisons" by Pierre Choderlos de Laclos as their narrative device through which characters spin, weave and unveil their schemes, spins and lies which cause mix-ups and surprises [1,867].

A number of literary figures across the globe have penned down their epistolary novels with great inspiration from personal letters. This has contributed to making their works even more real and realistic such as love and relationships, loneliness, self-discovery, history, friendship and so on.

Epistolary novels frequently delve into themes of love and relationships, portraying the intricacies of romantic emotions, heartbreak, and multifaceted connections. Through letters and journals, characters articulate their feelings, misunderstandings, and aspirations, as exemplified in Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice."

Characters often turn to letters and diaries as a means to cope with feelings of isolation and loneliness, emphasizing their yearning for connection. A poignant illustration of this is found in "The Diary of Anne Frank," which powerfully conveys the effects of solitude during times of conflict.

The exploration of identity and self-discovery is another significant theme, with characters utilizing written correspondence to examine and redefine who they are. This is notably present in Sylvia Plath's "The Bell Jar," where reflective writing uncovers the challenges of achieving self-awareness.

Many epistolary works also shed light on historical and political contexts, offering perspectives on significant events or societal issues. For instance, "Dracula" reveals Victorian-era anxieties surrounding science and sexuality through the characters' exchanges.

Friendship dynamics are frequently portrayed, capturing the complexities, joys, and challenges inherent in these relationships. "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" poignantly illustrates the nuances of adolescent friendships through sincere letters.

Conclusion

The epistolary novel represents a diverse and intricate genre that has undergone considerable transformation since it first emerged. Its ability to express deep and intricate human experiences remains impactful. As we advance into the digital era, it is anticipated that this genre will continue to evolve and innovate, mirroring our shifting communication methods while preserving the fundamental aspects that render it engaging. By exploring its historical and modern relevance, we can recognize the lasting impact of the epistolary novel on literature and its skill in portraying the subtleties of human feelings and relationships. The epistolary genre still

exists today, though in a more simplified format. A unique aspect of the contemporary epistolary form is its remarkable simplicity and artistic minimalism. In correspondence, one can highlight elements of business, journalism, and friendship. The primary purpose of the letter is to communicate details to the recipient. Currently, there are hardly any works of authorship in this genre. Within the text of letters, one can discover traits indicative of the life, actions, and personality of the letter's writer. Correspondence does not consistently act as a means of showcasing historical truths. They might more precisely reflect the owner's feelings and state of mind at the time he composes the letter. Letters assist an individual in acquiring life experiences and discovering solutions to inquiries he has not resolved in his life. The epistolary genre has played a significant role in both English and American literature, and also the World literature. It provides a unique way for authors to explore complex themes and character developments while allowing readers to engage deeply with the emotional lives of the characters. Through its intimate format, the epistolary genre continues to resonate with readers today.

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