

CRITICAL REALISM IN ENGLISH LITERATURE.

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Abstract. *In this article, you will be informed about Critical realism in English literature. Hope, if you have some hesitation in the question Realism and its role, you will find the solution to this question in our article.*

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Realism, in the arts, the accurate, detailed, unembellished depiction of nature or of contemporary life. Realism rejects imaginative idealization in favour of a close observation of outward appearances. As such, realism in its broad sense has comprised many artistic currents in different civilizations. In the visual arts, for example, realism can be found in ancient Hellenistic Greek sculptures accurately portraying boxers and decrepit old women. The works of such 17th-century painters as Caravaggio, the Dutch genre painters, the Spanish painters José de Ribera, Diego Velázquez, and Francisco de Zurbarán, and the Le Nain brothers in France are realist in approach. The works of the 18th-century English novelists Daniel Defoe, Henry Fielding, and Tobias Smollett may also be called realistic.

Realism was not consciously adopted as an aesthetic program until the mid-19th century in France, however. Indeed, realism may be viewed as a major trend in French novels and paintings between 1850 and 1880. One of the first appearances of the term realism was in the *Mercure Français du XIXe siècle* in 1826, in which the word is used to describe a doctrine based not upon imitating past artistic achievements but upon the truthful and accurate depiction of the models that nature and contemporary life offer the artist. The French proponents of realism were agreed in their rejection of the artificiality of both the Classicism and Romanticism of the academies and on the necessity for contemporaneity in an effective work of art. They attempted to portray the lives, appearances, problems, customs, and mores of the middle and lower classes, of the unexceptional, the ordinary, the humble, and the unadorned. Indeed, they conscientiously set themselves to reproducing all the hitherto-ignored aspects of contemporary life and society—its mental attitudes, physical settings, and material conditions.

Critical realism is a philosophy of social science that seeks to understand the underlying structures that shape social phenomena. It emerged in the 1970s as a reaction against positivism and other forms of empiricism that viewed scientific knowledge as objective and value-free.

The 19th century was characterized by sharp contradictions. In many ways it was an age of progress: railways and ships were built, great scientific discoveries were made,

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education became more widespread; but at the same time it was an age of profound social unrest, because there was too much poverty, too much injustice. The growth of scientific inventions mechanized industry and increased wealth, but this progress only enriched the few at the expense of the many. Dirty factories, long hours of work, child labour, exploitation, low wages, slums and frequent unemployment -these were the conditions of life for the workers in the growing industries of England, which became the richest country in the world towards the middle of the 19th century.

By the thirties of the 19th century English capitalism had entered a new stage of development. England had become a classical capitalist country, a country of industrial capitalism. The Industrial Revolution gathered force as the 19th century progressed, and profound changes in hand-looms gave way, within a hundred years, to factory towns, railroads, and steamships. The population of Manchester, Birmingham and other industrial centres was growing rapidly as the number of factory workers increased, while the number of poor farmers decreased and many rural districts were depopulated. The basic social classes in England were no longer the peasants and the landlords but the proletariat and the bourgeoisie.

Having won the victory over aristocracy, the bourgeoisie betrayed the interests of the working class. The workers fought for their rights. Their political demands were expressed in the People's Charter in 1833. The Chartist Movement was a revolutionary movement of the English workers, which lasted till 1848.

The Chartists introduced their own literature, which was the first attempt to create a literature of the working class. The Chartist writers tried their hand at different genres. They wrote articles, short stories, songs, epigrams, poems. Their leading genre was poetry.

The ideas of the Chartism attracted the attention of many progressive-minded people of that time. A lot of prominent writers became aware of the social injustices around them and tried to depict them in their works. Thus this period was mirrored in literature by the appearance of a new trend, the Critical Realism. The greatest novelists of the age are Charles Dickens, William Makepeace Thackeray, Charlotte Bronte, Elizabeth Gaskell.

These writers used the novel as a means to protest against the evils in contemporary social and economic life and to picture the world in a realistic way. Their greatness also lies in their profound humanism. Their sympathy lies with the ordinary people. They believed in the good qualities of the human heart.

Charles Dickens

Charles John Huffam Dickens was an English writer and social critic. He was born on February 7, 1812, in Portsmouth, England, and was the second of eight children. His father, John Dickens, was a clerk in the Navy Pay Office, and his mother, Elizabeth, had a talent for storytelling. Charles was educated at William Giles' School in Chatham, but was forced to leave at the age of 12 when his father was imprisoned for debt.

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After his father's imprisonment, Charles was sent to work in Warren's Blacking Warehouse in London, a shoe-polish factory where he worked under appalling conditions. His experiences during this time greatly influenced his later writings, particularly his depictions of poverty, social injustice, and class struggles in Victorian England.

Despite his difficult upbringing, Dickens began his career as a journalist and writer, publishing his first story in the Monthly Magazine in 1833. He soon became a full-time journalist and contributed to The Morning Chronicle, The Evening Chronicle, and other newspapers and magazines. In 1836, he published his first novel, The Pickwick Papers, which was an instant success and established him as a writer. He went on to publish many more novels and became one of the most famous and influential writers of his time.

Some of his most famous works include Oliver Twist, A Tale of Two Cities, Great Expectations, and David Copperfield. These novels are known for their vivid, colorful characters, intricate plots, and social critiques. Dickens' writing often explored themes of poverty, social injustice, and the struggles of the Victorian working-class.

In addition to his writing, Dickens was also heavily involved in social and charity work. He gave numerous public readings of his work to raise money for various charities, hospitals, and schools. He was a strong advocate for education and women's rights, and was particularly committed to improving the lives of impoverished children. He was also an advocate for animal rights and worked to improve the welfare of working horses.

Dickens died on June 9, 1870, in Higham, Kent, England, after having suffered a stroke. His legacy as a writer and social critic continues to be felt today, and his works are still widely read and studied. Dickens' depictions of social injustice and his advocacy for the disadvantaged have inspired generations of readers and writers.

Charles Dickens was a prolific writer and social activist whose works continue to resonate with readers today. His experiences growing up in poverty and working in harsh conditions influenced his writing, which often focused on themes of social injustice and the struggles of the working-class. In addition to his writing, Dickens was committed to social and charity work, using his platform to raise money for various causes and advocate for education, women's rights, and animal welfare. His legacy as a writer and social critic remains strong, and his works continue to be read and studied around the world.

William Makepeace Thackeray

William Makepeace Thackeray (1811-1863) was a British author and satirist, best known for his novels "Vanity Fair" and "The History of Henry Esmond". Born in Calcutta, India, Thackeray moved to England at a young age after his father died. He was educated at Cambridge University, but left without earning a degree.

Thackeray initially worked as a journalist before turning to writing fiction. In addition to his novels, he also wrote political articles and satirical sketches, often under different pseudonyms. His early works include "The Yellowplush Correspondence", a series of satirical sketches that first appeared in Fraser's Magazine, and "The Paris Sketch Book", a collection of essays and travel writing.

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Satirical novel is set in early 19th century England and follows the lives of two women, Becky Sharp and Amelia Sedley, as they navigate London society. The novel is known for its social commentary and biting wit, and is still regarded as one of the greatest English novels of all time.

Thackeray's other notable works include "The History of Henry Esmond", a historical novel set during the reign of Queen Anne, and "Barry Lyndon", a picaresque novel about a charming but unscrupulous Irishman.

Thackeray was also known for his illustrations, which often accompanied his own work. He produced numerous illustrations for his own books, as well as for the works of other writers, and was a well-regarded artist in his own right.

Thackeray suffered from a number of personal tragedies in his life, including the death of his wife and several of his children. He died in 1863 at the age of 52, having left behind a literary legacy that continues to be studied and enjoyed to this day.

In addition to his writing and illustrations, Thackeray was also known for his public speaking and lecturing. He often gave lectures on literature and social issues, and was a popular speaker in his time. Thackeray was also a founding member of the Garrick Club, a private members' club for men in the arts and media, which still exists today.

Realism is a way of thinking and creating things that started because people were tired of only focusing on feelings and imagination. Realism wants to show things as they really are, without pretending or making them look better. This way of thinking has been around for a long time, even back in ancient Greece. Realism has influenced lots of things, like books, paintings, and even how people study politics and how countries interact with each other. In the 1800s, a group of French artists started using realism in their paintings, and one of them even made a special place to show them. This started the movement called Realism. Which was an art movement where many artists painted things that looked like the real world.

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