

## THE EVOLUTION AND IMPACT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE ON YOUTH: FROM OLD ENGLISH TO MODERN MASTERPIECES

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**ABSTRACT.** The movement towards English literature began at the end of the Renaissance and Early Modern period. It is evident that English literature succeeded eras such as the Mughal Era in India, the Meiji Restoration in Japan, and the Tanzimat Reforms in Turkey. The Modern Literature period spans from the early 19th century to the 21st century and is divided into two primary sub-categories: Realism and Radicalism. Realists and activists depicted real conditions, settings, and moods of characters without exaggeration or sugar-coating. This literature served as a mirror to society, presenting both its merits and demerits. Prominent authors associated with Realist Modern literature include Flaubert, Tolstoy, Ibsen, and George Bernard Shaw. They aimed to establish the era of English language dominance among its speakers, replacing the previously dominant French literature in Europe.

**KEYWORDS:** old English era, middle age, renaissance age, modern age, literature, England, Saxons, jutes, Latin language, Daniel defoe, king arthur.

In today's world, many people are drawn to state-of-the-art works by American authors in the realm of Modern Language and Literature. However, the status and significance of Modern Literature are more valuable than 21st-century writing skills, both oral and written. Notable authors of this period include Ernest Hemingway, Robert Frost, Pablo Neruda, and Virginia Woolf, who have produced remarkable literary works.

The impact of these authors on contemporary literature cannot be overstated. Their writing styles have deeply influenced modern and contemporary authors like Paulo Coelho, Orhan Pamuk, and Toni Morrison. These works wield a strong influential power, challenging the cognitive thinking of the younger generation and directing their passion towards noble pursuits. The accessibility and relevance of these literary works to today's youth have contributed significantly to the development and appreciation of English literature among the younger generation.

Throughout the history of English literature, various periods have been identified, including Old English, Middle English, and the Renaissance, among others. According to history, English evolved as a new generation language of the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes, tribes that settled in Northern Europe and later in England from the 5th century C.E.

By the 9th century C.E., the earliest form of English, known as Old English or Anglo-Saxon, had developed. To modern eyes and worldviews, Old English bears a striking resemblance to a foreign language. Most works of Old English literature have been translated into modern English. Scholars generally agree that the longest surviving poem in Old English is Beowulf, a tale of legendary heroes and monsters. Beowulf is also one of the first European poems written in a vernacular language rather than Latin. The author of Beowulf remains unknown, while the first known Old English poet is Caedmon, a cowherd who lived before 700 C.E. His verses, which described Bible stories, were recorded by church monks since Caedmon himself was illiterate due to a disability. Cynewulf, who lived in the 800s, was another author of religious poetry.

Since the 21st century, the English language has undergone various eras and developments, ranging from the Old English period to the modern age. During this time, renowned writers have produced novels and poems accessible to readers and the younger generation. One such writer is Daniel Defoe, the author of "Robinson Crusoe," which combines humorous and realistic experiences.

Interestingly, this period also saw various legends and tales of kings and their valor, with King Arthur being a prominent figure in British history. Throughout his lifetime, King Arthur faced challenges that tested his power. These tales of bravery, chivalry, and adventure have captivated readers for generations and have contributed to the rich tapestry of English literature.

The Romantic era, which began in the late 18th century, brought a new wave of literary creativity. Romantic poets like William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and John Keats expressed their emotions, passions, and observations of nature through their works. Their poetic expressions resonated with readers and continue to inspire modern poets and writers.

The Victorian era, on the other hand, was characterized by the works of authors like Charles Dickens, Jane Austen, and the Brontë sisters. Their novels explored social issues, moral dilemmas, and the human condition, providing valuable insights into the society and culture of the time.

Literature encompasses written or oral texts and poems that play a vital role in enhancing cognitive abilities among readers or students. This article, in sharing breaking and current information, represents a form of literature. All texts, novels, and written works aim to exchange information, motivate individuals, or entertain. Literature can also be defined as the body of writing in a particular language or its cultural tradition, as in English literature, or writing that focuses on specific details and subjects, such as the literature of plants. Unfortunately, literature is often perceived as more creative and colorful by people of a particular country. The top dictionary definition of literature is: 'Writings in which expression and form, in connection with

ideas of permanent and universal interest, are characteristic or essential features, such as poetry, novels, history, biography, and essays.'

During the given period of time, this is a holistic and meaningful definition, it sketches out some of the basic and fundamental aspects and features of literature. Literature has always played a pivotal role in shaping cultures, societies, and individuals' perspectives. Its ability to convey universal themes, emotions, and human experiences transcends time and place, making it an invaluable asset to humanity. As English literature continues to evolve and influence younger generations, its significance and impact on society will undoubtedly continue to grow.

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