

# A Brief Overview on the Recent Trends of English Literature

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## Abstract

Culture, values, beliefs, and traditions are all reflected in the work of literature, which is a useful ability to have. Many people have been able to get a better understanding of the past and the present via this medium. Literature has the power to move people to explore their imaginations, discover new things, and contemplate their place in the world. Literature may be used to reflect on the world around us, but it can also serve as a gateway to new ideas and concepts. It has long been used as a technique of communicating with other people all over the globe in a language that is today understood by the general public. For this topic, the focus is on literary trends and how they have influenced the development of English literature. A comprehensive literature review using a guided literature search was used to gather the data for this investigation. Using internet-connected devices to link people across the world has led to a wide range of modern-day literary trends, according to the findings of this study. Allows for diverse viewpoints on injustices, murderous conquests, and political unrest. The internet, e-books, and social media are driving a shift in the way literature is created, perceived, and read, displacing the linear, lonely, and closed reading experience. Topics include the "6-word book," blogs, and hypertext. According to the findings of this research, globalization and the internet have had a profound impact on literature, and there is a direct link between literary and society influence.

*Keywords:* Literature, English, Trends, Indian culture, Social influence.

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## **Introduction**

The definition of literature is necessary before we can analyze current developments and issues in literature. What we see, feel, and experience in the world around us is mirrored in our writing. Social, political, and cultural issues all had a role in its development. Rather than a collection of words, literature is an arrangement of words that delights the reader, affects the mind, and alters society. Each era has its unique characteristics that may be used to reveal the literature of that era. The Renaissance Period (1500-1660) is defined by its etymology as a period of rebirth. For intellectual independence and consolation among all social strata, it is noted for its beauty, truthfulness, and humor. Order, correctness, and structure are hallmarks of the Neo-classical era (1660–1798). As opposed to the renaissance era, which believed in the intrinsic goodness of human beings, this era thinks that human beings are imperfect by nature. In the Age of Romanticism (1798-1837), there was a strong emphasis on the beauty of nature, as well as on individuality and solitary existence. While social inequality, migration, and unemployment were prevalent throughout the Victorian era (1837–1901), there was also an increase in population, power, and riches across the world. As a result of Industrialization, Globalization and Urbanization in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, people were forced to adapt. Massive human loss, loss of values and beliefs, and the confidence in the ultimate force were all shattered by the First World War. Like Charles Dickens and Thomas Hardy, they wrote about life's darker moments. Pessimism, mortality, and running away from one's responsibilities are all themes throughout Alfred Lord Tennyson's work. In contrast, Robert Browning was the sole poet of his day to express optimism and positivism in his work.(Kiran & Kumar, 2021)

The study of world literature (W.L.) has seen a surge in popularity since the turn of the twentieth century. From Goethe to Damrosch, Casanova to Gayatri Spivak and Milan Kundera, a lengthy number of thinkers and researchers from almost every corner of the globe have not only projected their unique viewpoints to define this new subject, but have also enlarged the scope of global literature in general. As a result of these debates, new distinctions were drawn between national literature and literature from throughout the globe. As far back as Goethe and Eckermann's lengthy conversations on the reception of a variety of literary works from other cultures and languages, the beginnings of global literature may be traced. He was happy to see the literary work's reception expand beyond the boundaries of a single language and political system via the greater use of translation. The notion of global literature was born out of his interest in reading literature from throughout the globe, including Chinese, Persian, Arabic, Siberian, Sanskrit, and German, either in translation or in the original language. Known for his overused adage, "the time of World literature is at coming, and every one of us must try to speed its arrival," his remark serves as the underlying foundation around which the whole structure of world literature is constructed. Aside from providing a foundation for new interpretations, this pronouncement has also prompted literary experts to go forward with the process of defining and defining global literature so that it might be better understood by future generations of researchers.(Ganguly, 2018)

The emergence of new kinds of electronic publishing, digital media, blogging, and other types of social networking is having a considerable impact on the field of English literature today. The contemporary media has a major impact on the way current academics see and study literature in English literature. Literature scholars may benefit from recent developments that facilitate the sharing of ideas and access to critical information. E-books and other digital forms of written literature have been shown to increase interest in reading while also improving reading and writing abilities. Social media, according to certain writers, has had a favorable influence on the English language and literature in general. Many other authors concur that as a result of globalization, writing styles must adapt, and that the internet and other forms of social media play a role in this. Others, on the other hand, believe that technology in general and social media in particular are limiting the growth of art and literature. As an example, there are so many tales on social media that Twitter journalism is displacing the novel-reading culture, for example. We believe that social media should not be allowed to infiltrate the realms of art and literature. Social media and literature may be kept apart through public events that include literary and artistic works. There's a perception that social media has principles that don't encourage the spontaneity of literary works. (Gurova, 2016)

### **Emerging Trends in English Literature**

Our everyday lives are increasingly reliant on mobile devices like laptops, tablets, and smartphones. Today's high-speed internet makes it possible for anybody, everywhere to look up references. As a result, it is clear that books are on the verge of extinction. High-speed internet access has rendered the human race intolerant, anxious, and thirsty for information. Unfortunately, they don't have enough spare time to settle down and enjoy a book. Because of the demands of modern living, the average person has little spare time for hobbies and other forms of recreation. Little phrases are needed to enliven information in this fast-paced everyday task. Words have lost some of their luster over the years. In our digital age, books, newspapers, and magazines have lost their value. It is becoming more difficult for Indian newspapers like The Hindu and Times of India to compete with the rise of the internet as an alternative form of media. Linear, confined, solitary reading is being replaced by cybernetic reading. It's changing the way people read books. Because to advancements in information technology, the average person is constantly exposed to textual and virtual forms of mass media through the internet. Today's population, especially children, has a limited capacity for sustained concentration. They can't follow extended phrases, paragraphs, or descriptions that go on and on. Take the work of, say, Thomas Hardy. Readers currently find Hardy's method of penning pages portraying scenery of the original nations objectionable. We can all connect to the idea that there are no longer any beautiful landscapes for us to gaze at and be inspired by.

From the outset, literature has experienced countless modifications. It has thrived throughout the centuries, as seen by its abundance. Literature has evolved into an art form in the age of cybernetics. For the sake of younger generations, it must be rethought. This balance between sufficiency and deficiency has been assisted by modern technology. SMS has given urban phrases and poetry a new home. 140-

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character stories are a viable option. It's no surprise that the internet is shrinking the planet. Long, cumbersome forms of writing have been simplified with the advent of flash fiction and microfiction. Many individuals used to spend their leisure time in libraries, either to read and study or to find the solutions to tasks and problems they had in mind. With today's technological advances, finding a solution is as simple as a quick search on Google. Access to all the world's knowledge is only one click away. Dictionaries are no different. Oxford used to be regarded as the Bible for literary scholars, but that status has waned over time. Almost all mobile phones come equipped with a dictionary. If it doesn't work, there are a plethora of options available on the internet. The meaning of almost every word may be found using tools like Word web. (Rajammal, 2020)

Culture, values, beliefs, and traditions are all reflected in literature, which has always been an important aspect of world history. Literature is also a productive talent that reflects on social norms, cultural ethos, values, beliefs, and traditions. From its earliest days in history to our own day, it's been more than simply an add-on; it's been called the "basic sine qua non" of a full life. Books have a long and illustrious history of informing and entertaining their audiences. Many people have learned about historical events and modern-day situations, as well as delved into their imaginations via various books as a result. Literature may serve as a lens through which we can see the world, as well as a portal for the emergence of new ideas and points of view. To communicate with other people throughout the globe, it has used a language that is widely understood. Literature provides a means for future generations to consult documents, records, and lessons learned. Books, journals, studies, fictional and nonfictional books and novels, poetry, prose, and diaries are all examples of creative writing. For that reason and others, it is an expression that may enlighten both the present and the future. One of the best ways to interact with readers is via literature. Good authors use carefully crafted language that resonates with their audience. Literature may serve as a means of preserving the humanistic traditions of society. It's possible to have a wide range of perspectives on a single work of literature when there are a lot of qualified authors contributing. An excellent place to start is with William Shakespeare's plays, such as the world-famous Hamlet, which is widely considered one of the most influential and potent pieces of English literature ever written. Because of this, several works of literature have been produced that explore the various ideas and views that exist around Shakespeare's works. As a result, all ages of readers may get an appreciation for Shakespeare's work from a number of perspectives. To put it another way, this is due to the fact that each author's knowledge of the topic they are analyzing varies widely. Interpretation and understanding of literature are the main goals of these students. This may change based on personal experiences and interactions, enabling authors to relate to literature in a variety of ways. (Somani, 2020)

### **Recent Trends in English Literature of India**

Many of the newer Indo-English fiction authors have also shown a notable change in their writing style. Instead of imparting information about a typical Indian cultural background and conventional Indian cultural ethos, their works express global issues via the depiction of a multi-culturally diverse

world. Readership has grown exponentially as the focus of their concerns has shifted. Many significant international awards, including the Nobel Prize for V.S. Naipaul, have been bestowed upon them as a result of their diversification in terms of subject matter and innovative methods of expression. Their works have been widely acclaimed. The group of authors, rather than presenting a traditional Indian socio-cultural setting and style, focuses on many types of life that are representative of numerous civilizations. Instead of portraying conventional Indian middle-class society and its flaws, the film shows us the lives and experiences of individuals who are wealthy and, to a significant part, socially emancipated. However, they don't confine their work to depicting the everyday epistemic reality of the impoverished and socially marginalized. Every time a new genre of literature arises, society as a whole undergoes significant changes. For example, when the form of the 'novel' was introduced into the literary canon in the eighteenth century, it represented not only the form, but also a large number of individuals who believed in the same way as the 'realistic' protagonist of the novel did. As more and more individuals from the working class and women began to read, the literary landscape in Britain began to transition from epics to novels. In some ways, this might be tied to the increasing economy, which led to more items being made accessible to consumers, allowing women to spend more time doing things they enjoyed rather than producing them at home, thus providing them more leisure time. Reading was also considered a luxury, so aristocratic men made sure their wives had plenty of leisure time to indulge in it. It gradually rose to the level of a status symbol. (KD, 2019)

Modern society's high-speed internet and hectic schedules have rendered literature short, uninteresting, and unappealing. Everyone is too busy in the rat race of the materialistic world to stop and read for an extended period of time. It's widely believed that the rise of the Internet has had a negative impact on America's most prestigious periodicals. The isolated and closed reading of the people has been replaced by cybernatic reading. Kids of today's generation aren't interested in lengthy, drawn-out paragraphs or explanations that go on for pages and pages. Thomas Hardy's best-known works are now considered disruptive reading. (Panda, 2018)

Even while social media is often celebrated for its role in the creation of digital media, there are worries about its probable negative consequences on literature. Social media and digital media by their very nature cater to the business needs of its users. Internet articles, for example, have embraced the practice of bending information and even exaggerating facts in order to pique the reader's curiosity and get their attention. As a result of the rise of social media, the field of fiction writing is flourishing. Some works of literature and art, on the other hand, need a great deal of introspection. Literature that needs a great deal of contemplation and contemplation can't be shared on social media, unlike in conventional libraries. The extroverted character of social media and the viral nature of its content sets it apart from many of the writers of English literature. Algorithms based on things that the user may be interested in drive computerized social networking. It's difficult for artists whose works demand more time to comprehend and evaluate if their literary goods are communicated only via social media. Art and literature should be segregated from social media so that only public events may access their works, according to the suggestion. People's perceptions of literature are greatly influenced by the use of digital

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technologies in contemporary literature. English literature may be more easily accessed and studied via the use of digital media, which facilitates the review and study of existing works. Scholars of literature benefit greatly from the ease with which they can now access a wealth of data thanks to the advent of digital media. As a result of this, digital technologies may be able to provide students and teachers with information about literature that is easier to understand and study. The e-book technology makes it feasible to evaluate earlier literature using electronic texts. Early modern English literature is heavily influenced by previous works, as may be seen by the digitized books that are readily accessible. With e-books, it is possible to read and store a large number of books at the same time. As a result of the "Electronic Revolution" and digital media, literary studies have been affected. The development of e-books and digital media has also made literary teaching and learning more accessible and convenient. Even English literary academics have benefited from Web-based education. (Gurova, 2016)

A shift in the way literature is communicated and received has occurred as a result of the rise of globalization and technological advances. Scholars nowadays mostly use digital platforms, which can be accessed from any digital device, to do their research on literature. It's fast, easy, low-cost, and widely available. As a result, critical thinking about literature is made possible by the rapid exchange of information and ideas. New literary trends have emerged in the midst of today's fast-paced society, however, which have spawned short, demanding, and imaginative works. As an example, Rebecca James published a 6-word book entitled "After she died, she came alive" that can be seen on several blogs and websites. This is an example of 'cybernetic reading' since today's culture, especially among the younger generation, does not participate in extended phrases, elaborate explanations, and paragraphs. New literary trends are being leveraged on social media platforms to get the younger generation interested in literature. "Flash fiction" refers to short stories that are fast-paced and memorable, such as Ernest Hemingway's short stories. When it comes to literature, the term "Twitter Fiction" refers to material that is published on the social media network "Twitter" outlining creative works in a variety of genres. Their popularity is rapidly transforming the way people read and write about literature. (Somani, 2020)

Slang phrases and grammatical alterations are common in contemporary-day literature, and they demonstrate the superficiality of the art form in modern times. They include casual and free writing styles that are not controlled, resulting in grammatical faults, a lack of vocabulary, and a disdain for referencing conventions. Another new trend in literature is the usage of hypertext, which allows readers to compare various works of literature and the accompanying images. They may achieve this by magnifying the screen on their smart phones or tablets. Since the invention of the internet, English has grown to be a universally understood language. It has served as a catalyst for linguistic shifts in the English language and, as a result, literary shifts. This has to do with how words are spelled, grammatically correct, and lexically sound. As a consequence, there have been discussions among scholars over whether the growth of online English education has a negative impact on the diversity of English standards. Although it might be claimed that English online represents a cultural revolution, it has also spawned a whole new genre of writing and a new field of study called internet linguistics.

## **CONCLUSION**

This research has concluded that internet platforms have influenced the evolution of literature. As a consequence of the cultural shifts that have occurred in recent years, literature has seen a substantial upheaval on a large scale. Covid-19 has led to a rise in the number of people accessing literature through technology platforms, since social distancing measures have prompted a shift in the distribution of literature. More than ever before, literary writings are being published online, regardless of the author's writing talent, expressing thoughts and feelings about the worldwide epidemic. There has been a sea change in the way we approach literary criticism and criticism studies. As a result of the widespread use of social media and other contemporary literary genres, our perceptions have been radically reshaped. Modern-day literature is being influenced by social media, blogging, videos, mobile applications, and e-books, all of which are influenced by technology platforms. Social media has had both beneficial and bad impacts on literature, although the data is still ambiguous as to how much of an influence they have had overall. Modern literature still has the ability to foster self-improvement and mutual understanding amongst individuals who aren't quite on the same page. Emotional connections may be made regardless of the media in which literature is written, allowing for a deeper understanding of varied viewpoints and ideas. A wide range of views and angles are used to convey a broader meaning of life via literature, which connects generations, time, and location. At the same time, it provides for a distinction between morality and immorality from the writer's point of view, with the intention of creating a more compassionate and fair society. The establishment of a relationship via the study of many cultures and ideologies, as well as values, in the effort to overcome biases and live with dignity in both historical and current literature.

Modern English literature is heavily influenced by current literary fads. New authors have emerged as a result of new trends, such as the widespread usage of social media. Writers who utilize social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to promote their literary works have seen a rise in their popularity. Older authors are also using social media to market their work and get new fans. In addition, authors and readers may interact and share ideas using social media platforms like as Twitter and Facebook. As a result, literary works may be critiqued and social media users can debate a variety of topics. Social media sites like Facebook and Twitter are also essential in rallying individuals to fight against the spread of socially harmful behaviors. In addition, Facebook and other social networking sites are excellent for English literature experts to debate and analyze their work. Access to and scholarly examination of English literature have both greatly improved because to digital media. The greater availability of literary works in the form of eBooks and audio versions of novels and tales simplifies studies that would have previously taken a lot of time and effort. A scholar may also find research papers and reviews on a variety of blogs.

With the support of the media, more individuals are becoming interested in writing nowadays. It is becoming more prosperous than at any time since the beginning of recorded history. It's impossible to forecast or control the changes in literature, good or bad, since there are so many forces at play. Currently, English is widely accepted as a worldwide language. There is little doubt that electronic media has had

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a significant influence on literary works, both in terms of numbers and expectations. Poetry is widely used in film songs, commercial jingles, and everyday soap operas, proving that it is both an accessible and entertaining form of expression for a wide range of people. Literature has been influenced by Western culture, and as a result, current trends have emerged. Additionally, the Indian education system has taken the lead in introducing new and interactive learning methods such as smart classrooms and online chat sessions.

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