



University of Tikrit  
College of Education for Women  
English Department

Subject  
**Types of English Novel**

Fourth Stage

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**Comment on the Types of English Novel. Mention them and explain them all.**

**1 (Picaresque novel)**

\* It depicts the adventures of a sharp-witted rogue or picaire, living off his wits while travelling through a variety of low-life settings, who lives by his wits in a corrupt society.

\* It is flourished in the tradition of the 16th-century Spanish picaresque narrative in Spain.

\*Its goal is to criticize the traditional customs of the time throughout blending some elements of comedy and satire, showing satirical comments questions established beliefs and customs.

\*The picaresque novel is typically episodic, lacking a sophisticated plot, and psychologically complex - or developing characters.

E.g. Daniel Defoe’s novel Moll Flanders  
Joseph Andrews’ novel Henry Fielding (1742)

**2 (Epistolary novel)**

\*It is told through letters ( epistles ) exchanged between different characters which is told through various documents: letters, telegrams, journals.

\* It is flourished in the tradition of the 18th century Spanish picaresque narrative in Spain.

Epistolary novels can be categorized into (three types) based on the number of people whose letters are included:

- (monophonic) : giving the letters of only one character
- (dialogic) : giving the letters of two characters
- (polyphonic) :giving letters with three or more letter-writing characters

e.g. Samuel Richardson’s Pamela (1740) and Clarissa (1747-8)  
Alice Walker's "The Purple Color"

**3 (Bildungsroman Novel)**

\* Or named (the novel of formation) Which literally translates as"education or growth novel" that focuses on the psychological and moral growth of the protagonist from childhood to adulthood (coming of age)

\*It can narrate the whole life of a character or only a period in which it works on the emotional and psychological evolution of a character. It portrays a growing up of a naive person , or youngest child going out in the world to seek his fortune, searching of answers to life's questions lead to gain experience of the world.

	<p>* * It is flourished in the tradition of the 18th century which is coined 1819 by philologist Karl Morgenstern in German</p>
	<p>The genre often features a main conflict between the main character and society since there is an emotional loss which makes the protagonist leave on their journey, (i.e) the goal is maturity, (growth of an individual), and the protagonist achieves it gradually.</p>
	<p>e.g. Charlotte Brönte's "Jane Eyre"by , Charles Dickens' "David Copperfield"by Charles Dickens.</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>(Gothic Novel)</b>
	<p>* The depiction of horrible events which serves as a metaphorical expression of psychological or social conflicts.</p>
	<p>* It represents the environment of fear, the threat of supernatural events, and the intrusion of the past upon the present</p>
	<p>*It tackles the issues of death, decadence, fear, and haunting. In addition to the supernatural - terrifying and mysterious elements</p>
	<p>(ERA) the European Middle Ages.</p>
	<p>e.g. novels of Charles Dickens / the Brontë sisters/ Edgar Allan Poe / Nathaniel Hawthorne. (The early Victorian period)</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>(Historical novel)</b>
	<p>*It narrates events of the past in which the events narrated must belong to a period prior to the writing to be fictitious and factual. (i.e.) the author simply takes the historical stage and includes his own characters.</p>
	<p>*It is a literary genre in which the plot takes place in a setting related to the past events, but is fictional. It is interested in the manners, and social conditions.</p>
	<p>* Exploring the historical figures in these settings to allow readers to better understand how these individuals might have responded to their environments.</p>
	<p>e.g. Umberto Eco's "The Name of the Rose".</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>(Satirical novel)</b>
	<p>*It seeks to ridicule a particular element to provoke a change of opinion in the reader or at least a reaction.</p>

	<p>*It reveals the author's opinion about a particular situation and, generally, propose an alternative that could improve this situation.</p> <p>e.g. Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>(Fantasy Novel)</b>
	<p>It includes imaginary worlds, as well as science fiction novels and dystopian novels. However, the central theme in these novels is magic. They can include witches, sorcerers, fairies, among others.</p> <p>e.g. Rowling's "Harry Potter" saga</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>(Realistic Novel)</b>
	<p>It is intended to make the events narrated look real. It presents strong characters that unfold in an environment with real social problems and carry out daily actions, (i.e.) the social structure of reality is copied successfully, which contributes to its realistic character.</p> <p>e.g. Harper Lee's "Killing a Mockingbird".</p>
<b>9</b>	<b>(Autobiographical novel)</b>
	<p>They are those that reveal information about the life of the author. The writer or writer includes elements of his life and mixes them with the plot of the novel.</p> <p>e.g. Virginia Woolf's "Lighthouse", Charles Dickens's "David Copperfield" &amp; "Great Expectations" .</p>
<b>10</b>	<b>(Science fiction novel)</b>
	<p>It is based on technological elements, showing advances in this field. They propose alternative worlds that answer the question "what would happen if...?". For instance, What would happen if the aliens conquered the Earth? What would happen if humans were forced to leave Earth? What if you could travel to the past?</p> <p>e.g. HG Wells's "Time Machine" and " War of the Worlds",</p>
<b>11</b>	<b>(Dystopic novel)</b>
	<p>They are those in which a futuristic society, technologically advanced.</p> <p>This society is perfect in appearance, however, it hides a lot of problems that will be shown throughout the novel. They are also known as "antiops" because they oppose utopia (the perfect place).</p> <p>NOTE: All dystopian novels are science fiction novels, since they present technologically advanced societies.</p> <p>e.g. George Orwell's "1984"</p>

<b>12</b>	<b>(Horror novel)</b>
	It narrates events that seek to generate fear in the reader.
	It is intended to frighten, scare, or disgust. It is often divided into the sub-genres of (psychological horror) and (supernatural horror), which is in the realm of speculative fiction.
	Horror intends to create an eerie and frightening atmosphere for the reader. Often the central menace of a work of horror fiction can be interpreted as a metaphor for larger fears of a society.
	e.g. "The Shining" by Stephen King and "In the Crypt" by Howard Phillip Lovecraft.
<b>13</b>	<b>(Mystery novel)</b>
	* It usually focuses on a crime (usually a murder), which must be solved by the characters. In this sense, it is related to detective novels.
	* The nature of an event, usually a murder or other crime, remains mysterious until the end of the story. Often within a closed circle of suspects, each suspect is usually provided with a credible motive and a reasonable opportunity for committing the crime.
	* The central character is often a detective (such as Sherlock Holmes), who eventually solves the mystery by logical deduction from facts presented to the reader.
	e.g. "The name of the rose" of Umberto Eco and "The girl of the train".
<b>14</b>	<b>(Allegorical Novel)</b>
	when history is used to refer to another situation. In this sense, the plot of the novel has a symbolic meaning beyond the words narrated.
	It usually includes criticism and religious, historical, social, political, or philosophical reflections.