



## Lecture #1

### Introduction :

In this course, there are two main approaches to the English novel; **historical and practical**.

The historical approach deals with introducing a general political and social background of the eighteenth century that affected the rise of the English novel.

Then, to read and analyze any novel, there is a need to get familiar with the general aspects of the novel such as setting, characters, theme, point of view, etc.

In the practical approach, there is an analysis of selected literary texts from the 18<sup>th</sup> century focusing on *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe.

### Historical and Cultural Background of England in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

The 18<sup>th</sup> century is usually referred to as the age of enlightenment because it brought light to the human mind. The previous ages were dark and there was negative attitude toward new ideas of any kind. Thomas Paine called the 18<sup>th</sup> century the age of reason. The reason depends on thinking and using of the human mind.

According to *The Norton Anthology of English literature*, In the previous ages of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the universe seemed a small place. Less than six thousand years old, the earth was the center of the universe where a single sun moved around it.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century opened new areas of vision. New discoveries appeared, the people of this age knew a lot of information more than the ancient people.

Politics had a great impact on the 17<sup>th</sup> century and 18<sup>th</sup> century literature in England.

During this period, England was a great power in the world, even it became the most powerful empire.

This created self-confidence for the English writers, they were influenced by the political situation.

1660: was the date of restoring the monarchy by king Charles II. He came from Paris to England.

### Many changes happened because of the restoration of Charles II:

- 1- The Anglican Church became the established church

- 2- Theaters were reopened
- 3- More freedom in writing. Many writers criticized people's lives

### Religion and its influence :

- Religion had a great influence on writers of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries
- They couldn't ignore religion. They were involved by religion

### There were reasons for that involvement:

- 1- Writers couldn't only depend on books they wrote ( not enough money or even no money gained at all) Therefore, some writers were priests or preachers
- 2- A lot of people didn't read
- 3- Poor people didn't have time or money to spend on reading. They worked 12 hours a day and more.

Although there were no political parties in the modern sense, there were **two groups**

**1- Tory group.** Later, they developed their name to **Conservative Party**- The high class who supported the church. They were very rich.

**2- Whig group.** Later, they developed their name to **Liberal Party**- The rising city middle class of traders and other money-men.

Later there was another party found in 1900 which became the third party in England

**3- The Labor Party**- including people who don't have a lot of money – workers

- “ Charles II established the Royal Society which was a center for writers and scientists.
- “ Charles II died in 1685.
- “ He left no children. So his Brother , James II, succeeded him.
- “ The illegitimate son of Charles II wanted to be the king. He led an uprising against James II, but he failed.
  
- ❖ Mary the elder daughter of James, was married to William of Orange, ruler of the United Provinces of Holland.
- ❖ William and Mary were secretly offered the throne.
- ❖ In 1688 William crossed the English Channel with small army. The English people supported him and James II escaped to France. It was called **the Glorious Revolution** because there was no bloodshed.
- ❖ William and Mary were crowned in 1689
  
- After the death of Mary, William ruled till 1702
- Queen Anne, the younger sister of Mary II, ruled from 1702-1714.

- Then came the rule Of George I (1714-1727), George II (1727-1760), and George III (1760-1820). During the eighteenth century, England had settled into a period of order, at least among the upper classes.

The Augustan Age, this came from the name of the first Roman emperor, Augustus, who lived in the first century A.D. Augustus is the adopted son of Julius Caesar who was murdered by a group of aristocrats. Then the Civil War followed that. The real name of Augustus was Octavian. Stability and peace came after the Civil War ended. Literature also flourished after the Civil War.

“ England After the Restoration in (1660) was similar to Rome- what happened in England was like what happened in Rome.

“ The writers of England appreciated highly the classical literature of ancient Greece and Rome. They translated old classical literature and tried to imitate it. They thought that "human nature does not change , there is nothing in fact could be discovered"

### Kinds of literature at the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries

#### Drama

“ That age was the age of reason. The interest in feeling was not totally forgotten, but the interest was in the sentimental comedy.

“ There was no importance of tragedy.

“ There were no great tragedies at that time.

Examples of great comedies:

She stoops to Conquer by Goldsmith

The School for Scandal , The Critic By Sheridan

Drama was also the vehicle for the political comments of writers until subjected to censorship after the License Act of 1737.

This act was against drama. No play could be performed without a license.

For that reason, drama had been weakened. As a result of that novels flourished and grew quickly in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (We will see that later in the reasons behind the rise of the novel)

#### Poetry

All kind of poetry were written in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. There was a tendency to keep the achievements of earlier ages. The epics which were written in old ages were kept. The best poetry in the 18<sup>th</sup> century is that which is concerned with man and his social aspects. Poets were involved in public life.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century was rich in producing many types of literature. In addition to the traditional types of literature which were known before, such as drama , poetry...etc. Several new types grew in this age such as:

1. Literary criticism
2. Letter writing
3. History as an art of writing
4. Autobiography
5. Travels as an art of writing
6. Biography

Nearly at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, 1798 is a very important literary date. It is the beginning of a new movement which is Romanticism. This date is a kind of declaration. There is a very important book appeared in this year. It is a collection of poems.

The beginning of the Romantic Period is usually identified with the publication of this book, ***Lyrical Ballads*** (1798) By William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

So The age of reason was followed by the romantic period. Simply, romanticism was a reaction against reason. It was going back to the emotional rather than the rational. It indicated that there were a lot of good things about humanity not based on reason.

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## Lecture #2

### The Changes in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century :

The main features (Changes) of the 18<sup>th</sup> century ; the age of reason, enlightenment age.

Almost each one in this age tried to build his intense individualism. Therefore, there was a need for literary works that embody this characteristic. People began to read a lot because of printing and spread of newspapers. Because of these changes in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, more reading public appeared and made an audience for the English novel ( expected readers).

### All of these changes led to the rise of the novel in some way or another

❖ **Freedom:** There was a belief in human ability to achieve what he wanted without given instructions by anyone or the church.

- ❖ **Rational thinking:** It became possible to apply rational laws to describe social and physical behavior, so knowledge could be used in everyday life.
- ❖ **Spread of education:** human being is naturally good and can be educated to be better. Reason was the key to truth through education, whereas in the previous ages religion (the church) relied on blind faith not allowing any other authority; not questionable.
- ❖ **Material change :** Most thinkers attacked the Catholic Church. Most people began to be interested in material rather than religion. Many people turned against the church and withdrew from religious belief. So secular values gained ground.
- ❖ **Scientific change:** Most people were no more interested in the supernatural but in the normal. Technological achievements appeared in this age through scientific methods such as ( observation, experimentation, and hypothesis). There were new scientific discoveries.
- ❖ **City Migration:** a lot of people moved from the country (village) to the town(city).
- ❖ **Agricultural change:** during the previous ages, people used old methods and techniques in agriculture. Even they didn't grow some kinds of crops because of illogical thinking. For example, they didn't grow potato because they thought it was the cause of diseases and plagues. Since it was not mentioned in the Bible, it was no good for human
- ❖ **Social change:** Social life developed increasingly. There were coffee houses almost all over England where people met and interacted with each other. In this situation, novelists became closer to normal human nature and everyday life; it became exposed and reachable.
- ❖ **Diversity:** in the previous ages, there was no way of diversity, somehow closed- minded attitude. In the age of reason, there was acceptance of other ideas and other cultures.
- ❖ **Family life** was gradually changed. There was more respect and equality in dealing with women and children during this age. There was a new outlook towards family life in general. In this age, even the parents began to give different names for their new born babies to give their individuality.

Even the classes of society had changed. According to Daniel Defoe, there were seven classes of people in the 18<sup>th</sup> century :

- 1.The Great, who live lavish life
- 2.The Rich, who live very plentifully
- 3.The Middle Sort, who live well

- 4.The Working Trades, who labor hard, but feel no want
- 5.The Country People, farmers, etc., who fare indifferently
- 6.The Poor, that fare hard
- 7.The Miserable, that really suffer want.

❖ **Political change:** Political stability and years of peace in England resulted into an economic prosperity that led to emerging of the middle class. People improved their financial situation based on individual achievement rather than depending on fathers' possession( hereditary right).

During the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, there were important revolutions in England and its surrounding countries. They affected the rise of the novel , and they were the main topic of a lot of many novels. These revolutions are:

- The Glorious Revolution in England
- The American Revolution
- The French Revolution
- The Industrial Revolution

### The Glorious Revolution (1688)

The Glorious Revolution was also called the Revolution of 1688, when William of Orange took the English throne from James II in 1688. William of Orange gathered 21,000 soldiers and sailors and set sail for England. It was "Bloodless Revolution" because few battles took place on English soil.

James II left England to France. According to a well-known historian Burke, the events of 1688-89 were, "a happy and Glorious Revolution"; it was a transition from illegitimate control to legitimate one.

It aimed at

- Get rid of James II and his injustice
- Political and social settlement

### The American Revolution ( 1775–1783)

During the last decades of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, thirteen colonies in North America joined together to free themselves from the control of England and became the United States of America. This revolution (war) began in 1775 and ended in 1783.

The American revolution aimed at

- Independence
- Freedom
- Equality

## The French Revolution (1789-1799)

It began in 1789. It was against injustice and inequality. During the first years of the revolution, many poor people and farmers attacked rich people by breaking into their houses. They stole and killed them. That time was called "the Great Fear". The Revolution ended when Napoleon Bonaparte took power in 1799.

After around ten years of instability, the new France was finally formed, inspired by the American Revolution. America had already founded a democratic system, so the French underwent the same experience.

It aimed at as it was set in the revolution's slogan:

- Liberty
- Equality
- Fraternity

These values inspired novelists at that time.

## Industrial Revolution (1760-1840)

The Industrial Revolution was the transition to new methods of manufacture in the period from about 1760 to sometime between 1820 and 1840. This transition included going from hand production methods to machines, new chemical industry, iron production, the increasing use of steam power and the development of machine tools.

Bad (negative) effects of the industrial revolution:

- Air pollution
- Spread of diseases
- Materialistic interest
- Work of children

Good (positive) effects of the industrial revolution:

- Transportation became easier
- Mass production
- Spread of printing and press

It also included the change from wood and other bio-fuels to coal. It began in England and within a few decades had spread to other countries in Europe and America.

It changed the life of people since they were interested in Agriculture using simple methods. Machines changed their lives upside-down.

All revolutions of that time focused on individualism



England became a great powerful empire. It expanded overseas and led to:

- Growth of trade ( internal and external) increased manufacturing.
- The economy began to escalate toward industrial revolution.
- Better food supplies.
- More people survived ( growing number of population)

On the other hand, Some critics saw that negatively, rising prosperity in England was built on inhumanity overseas. England's Expansion into empire was a result of enslaving poor nations and their lands.

All these features and changes happened in the 18<sup>th</sup> century affected the rise of the English novel directly or indirectly ( this will be clear in the coming lectures).

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### Lecture #3

#### The definition of the novel

#### The definition of the novel :

Critics usually disagree on a unified definition for the novel as a kind of art.

The English name is derived from the Italian "novella", which means " a little new thing".

Although it was a new form of writing, the novel replaced poetry and drama. It grew in production in the 18th century and became the primary form of literature ever after. It is still a popular form of literature.

According to David Lodge in his book; Language of Fiction: Essays in Criticism and Verbal Analysis of the English Novel(1966), he says that " we assess a novelist according to the success with which he constructs in fictional world in which every action or utterance contributes to our understanding of any other.

Since this is a created world we look for a logic consistency and design in the whole which eludes us in the real world. In both worlds the same kinds of questions are raised, the same kinds of thought, processes are set in motion, but in the fictional world we have stronger expectations of finding the answers and reaching conclusions".

Henry James had a unique perception of the novel: " A novel is a living thing, all one and continuous, like any other organism, and in proportion as it lives it will be found, I think that in each of the parts there is something of the other parts."

Some critics go further than that, they think that the work of the novelist is creative not descriptive. The novelist should create his novel from his mind and imagination

According to Austin Wright, "A novel is a kind of communication. It acts as a bridge between the novelist and audience"

Any good novel will keep its readers' interest all over the novel. They feel that they can't stop reading.

E.M. Forster sees novel as a kind of art that "imitates or represents images of life, real or imagined, abstract or concrete, ranging from the most specific and individualized to the most universal and archetypal"(Wright, 1982)

A novel is a kind of art, good artistic experience. It is written for "artistic sake", to show how it is well made.

### The first novel

There was a great effect of Elizabethan drama on the appearance of the novel. Some critics consider Aphra Behn the first novelist and she made a living from publishing novels. She wrote Oronooko in 1688 and borrowed a lot from the French romances. But Daniel Defoe is credited with the appearance of the "true" English novel by the publication of Robinson Crusoe in 1719.

### Features of the novel

1. The novel is written in prose, but there is sometimes poetic language in it .
2. There is a unity of structure between the events. They should be related.
3. There is an order in relation to time and place. Some novelists leave their novels open without an end.
4. There are characters in the novel. These characters are fictional even though they have similarity to real people. There is a kind of imitation of real people. The novelist tries to make his imaginative characters believable to some extent. Therefore, a reader can expect some actions and reactions in the novel.
5. A novel is of a "certain length". A poem can be anything from a couplet to a thousand pages or even more, but a novel can't be three or four pages. Length is very important feature to the novel in order to expose at least the elements of the novel.

If there is a prose narrative of twenty or thirty pages or less, it is called a short story.

If there is a prose narrative between forty or fifty and a hundred pages, it is called novella. So, a novel is usually more than a hundred pages.

### The main reasons behind the rise of the novel

1. Growing middle class.
2. Printing made books and written material available. As a result of that, there was a large number of booksellers. They encouraged novelists to write more and more.
3. More reading public

There was an increasing number of readers. A lot of women began to read. So there was "a nation of readers" as Johnson described it.

4. Political and social stability in this age
5. Good novelists appeared during this age

### Famous novelists in the 18th century are:

Defoe is a very important novelist. Other major 18th century English novelists are Samuel Richardson, author of Pamela, (1740) and Clarissa (1747-8), Henry Fielding, who wrote Joseph Andrews (1742), Oliver Goldsmith, author of The Vicar of Wakefield (1766).

#### 6. Licensing Act of 1737

After this act, drama was subjected to censorship. There were many restrictions on dramatists. Therefore, there was a tendency to write novels better than plays. Most of the people wanted to read novels instead of attending theatres which were for the high class.

#### 7. The rise of individualism

During the 18th century there was also a rise of individualism. Each one felt so important in his society. This individualism not only weakening the traditional relationships, but also the stress on the importance of personal relationships which is a characteristic of the society and the novel during this century.

### Ian Watt says that there was a "triple rise" appeared in the 18th century

- 1) Rise of the middle class
- 2) Rise of literacy
- 3) Rise of the novel

The 18th century holds not only the birth of the English novel, but "hope and confidence replace the doubt and uncertainty."

Mathew Arnold called the 18th century "age of prose". Great prose dominated that age. Novelists became better known than poets.

Since its arrival in the 18th century , the novel has come a long way. When 18th century novelists such as: Defoe, Richardson and Fielding wrote, their writing was a reflection of the society they lived in from their point of view.

They wrote about the outside appearance of what society was and how characters were. Some critics described the novelists of this age, they focused on the external description of life. Their novels were full of details, they examined life in depth. Somehow, they mix real life and fictional life together.

According to Stevenson, Defoe invented the English novel. He is considered as the father of the English novel. He contributed a lot to the English novel and to the literary traditions of his age. He was a "turning point" in the history of the English novel.

#### The purposes of novelists were:

- 1) To teach new values
- 2) To entertain their readers
- 3) To deliver messages to the readers of what they wanted
- 4) To help less educated readers understand life better.
- 5) To write in a simple language( in prose rather than verse), let simple people understand
- 6) To write about their present life. They moved from supernatural to natural events in their novels. The novelists in this age intended to write novels about normal life in their society

Novels encourage readers to think of their lives. They show the shortcomings in the society and let the readers discover the right solutions for them.

They supply the readers with a lot of information about unfamiliar topics.

Mathew Arnold thinks that a novel acts upon its readers," to benefit them or change their behavior or satisfy their needs, to heal, to teach, to persuade or, on larger scale, to influence society or the world" (Wright,1982)

#### Anti-novel View

People from the upper class were against any change in society and in literature.

They were "anti-novel". They attacked this new kind of literature. They thought that it was:

- 1) degrading form of writing. Poor language
- 2) bringing bad values to their society which would corrupt people.
- 3) full of love stories

With the arrival of novelists in the 19th century, such as Dickens, Joyce and Bronte, there was a great change in their novels. The intention of the novelists changed from the external to the internal. These novelists began to reflect the consciousness of the characters and their psychological complexities.

## Lecture #4

### Main Types of the Novel

These are the main types of the novel.

- 1-The Regional novel
- 2-The Science Fiction novel
- 3-The Novel of Action
- 4-The Bildungsroman novel
- 5-The social novel
- 6 -The Metafiction novel
- 7- The Faction Novel
- 8-The Historical novel
- 9-The Picaresque novel
- 10- The Letter novel
- 11 -The Gothic novel

#### Introduction

In order to approach a novel it is very important to know its type or a reader would fail to extract the value and pleasure from his reading. Therefore, it is very important to distinguish different types of the novel all over the time. There are many kinds of novels, but these are the essential ones in fiction.

These types of novels are very well-established in the literary traditions of fiction. Some critics may divide novels according to time as classical(traditional), Victorian (appeared during the Victorian age), modern, post-modern...etc.

Another division would be according to novels' topics. Thus, their topics would be colonial, romantic, political, psychological, natural...etc. Another classification would be related to gender (male or female), for example, there is a feminist novel which is mainly concerned with the feminine perspectives towards life .

In the following , there are the general types of the novel.

#### 1-The Regional novel

It contains a lot of attention on a particular, geographical region.

A regional novelist writes a number of novels including the same region as in the case of Thomas Hardy's " Wessex." Hardy's "Wessex" is used to describe the south-west region of England.

Some critics see such regional novels as a target for regional readers not universal readers. They think that it is a shortcoming.

The main concerns of such novel are traditions, lifestyle, and communication in a region.

Example: Thomas Hardy's The Return of the Native( 1878)

## 2- The Science Fiction novel

Some critics describe this kind of novel as "fantastic" fiction. It contains scientific setting which is related to advanced technology, and usually set in the future. Science fiction novels' actions and settings are conceivable but not actual.

In the age of reason , Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels (1726) was one of the first true science fiction works.

In the 19th century, H.G. Wells is considered one of the most important authors of science fiction. His most notable science fiction works include The Time Machine (1895) and The Invisible Man (1897).

## 3-The Novel of Action

This kind of novel is concerned with what characters do all over the novel and how the action goes on. In this type of novel, there is sometimes a loose plot structure.

Example: Defoe's Robinson Crusoe (1719) which has a loose plot structure.

## 4-The Bildungsroman novel

It is also called "novel of education". It refers to that novel which follows the development and cultivation of a young protagonist from his childhood through adulthood till his maturity.

### The most important features of this kind of novel

1. Formation of a single main character ; a young man or young woman.
2. Individualism, there is a deep outlook towards the private life and thoughts of this character.
3. Determination, there is a positive attitude towards life.
4. The " ideal of humanity" leads to a full realization of all human potential as the aim of life.

Example: Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship (1795) by Goethe . It was translated by Carlyle. It is a novel of education.

### 5-The social novel

It is also known as a social problem novel. It is a reaction against the rapid industrialization and its effects on social, economic and political issues. It is a reflection of the abuses of industry against the poor, who gain nothing from the growing economy.

An example of this kind of novel is Dickens' Oliver Twist(1837). Dickens wrote about London life and the poor. A Christmas Carol (1843) is another good example of the struggles of working class with their social problems.

### 6-The Metafiction novel

It is simply "fiction about fiction". It deals with the nature and process of the composition of the novel.

The English father of Metafiction Lawrence Sterne. In his novel, Tristram Shandy(1760), he directs his readers to turn back several pages to read a passage.

### 7- The Faction Novel

This word is formed of two word( fact and fiction). So, it refers to a novel that is between fact and fiction which deals with real events or people, but taking details from the novelist's imagination not from the real life.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica a nonfiction novel is a story of actual people and actual events told with the dramatic techniques of a novel. The American novelist Truman Capote claimed to have invented this genre with his book In Cold Blood(1965).

### 8-The Historical novel

It is a novel that sets its events and characters in such a well-defined historical context. It includes convincing detailed description of manners, buildings,...etc. It gives a sense of historical authenticity.

Example: Sir Walter Scott was a successful British novelist and " the greatest single influence on fiction in the 19th century." He established the historical novel through his Waverly novels. He wrote historical novels about Middle Ages and about the lowlanders and highlanders of Scotland. His most famous novels are Waverley(1814), Antiquary(1816).

There are also some great novels in the 19th century which have a historical interest such as Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities( 1859) and Victor Hugo's Notre Dame De Paris(1831).

The historical novel is neither dead nor dying. It is a story which is set among historical events. Such historical novels recreate the atmosphere of a past period and include actual characters and events from history.

### 9-The Picaresque novel

The object of the picaresque novel is to take a central figure and follow his adventures all over the novel. Usually, a poor young man lives in a poor circumstances and reaches the top at the end. A picaro, the hero of the picaresque novel, moves or travels from one place to another in order to achieve his interests.

Travel was the chief means of becoming acquainted with the social life of the 18th century; success is the chief means nowadays. Travel was a challenge in the 18th and 19th centuries. Few people could travel at that time. Also, success in the present time needs great efforts.

Therefore, a man who travelled or succeeded will try to convey his experiences. Novelists make use of these experiences in their novels.

Example: Henry Fielding's Joseph Andrews (1742) is considered a picaresque novel

### 10- The Letter novel ( epistolary novel )

This kind of novel is written in the form of letters from one character or more. During the narration of the novel, there is an exchange of letters.

Example: Richardson's Pamela(1740)

### 11-The Gothic novel

This kind of novel usually contains frightening castles, graveyards and such terrifying places. Even the characters in this kind of novel are strange and frightening. It is also full of strange noises, sometimes storms, tension and suspense.

Example: Horace Walpole wrote the first gothic novel, which is The Castle Of Otranto (1764). Mary Shelley's novel, Frankenstein (1818) was a very important gothic novel.



Novels about vampires are also considered gothic novels. Varney the Vampire(1845) which established the conventions of vampires, where Varney has fangs, leaves wounds on the neck of his victims, and is very powerful.

### Conclusion

These are some of the novel's types. As it is clear, there is a pioneering novel for each kind of them which sets the main principles and features of every one of them. It is a kind of setting and establishing the appearance of the main kinds of novels.

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## Lecture #5

### Character and Point of view

### Character and Point of view

#### I. Characterization

According to *Wikipedia Encyclopedia*, it is the art of creating characters for a narrative. It is a literary element and may be employed in the works of art or even in everyday conversation.

Characterization is "the process" of conveying information about characters in fiction .

Characters are usually presented through their actions and thoughts, as well as by description. Characterization can take into consideration a variety of aspects of a character, such as appearance, age, gender, educational level, vocation or occupation, financial status, marital status, social status, cultural background, hobbies, religious beliefs, ambitions, motivations, personality... etc.

Characters are considered as the most important element of the novel. Characters have great effects on other elements such as the plot or the action of the novel, the place and time of it and the other elements. Characters also help in revealing the messages behind the novel. They interact with the readers in many different ways. There is a kind of emotional effect on the readers , they make them hate or love them.

- There is no human being who is perfect. Also, there is no character who is perfect in the novel.
- "Character is everything in literary fiction". It does not mean that the character replaces plot and setting or other elements , but that the character relates to all of them.

- Boulton says in his book, *The Anatomy of the Novel* (1975) that " character in a novel is not puzzling as character in real life: a novel is short; it is a work of art, so it is selective; the novelist must start with his own assumptions, preoccupations and experience.

Yet we do learn about character in a novel rather as we do in real life: from people's actions, from what they say about themselves, from what others say about them. We may be told just what to think, or be left with some of the ambiguities and perplexities we feel in real life".

According to Ian Watt, two aspects have especial importance in the novel,

1. Characterization
2. Presentation of background

The novel is surely distinguished from other genres and from previous forms of fiction by the amount of attention to individualization of its characters and detailed presentation of their environment.

### Methods of characterization

Characters can be presented through:

1. Their actions and others' reactions towards them. As E. M. Forester says, it can only keep us going by " and then-and then". One is not interested in the author no more, but in what is going to happen next in the action of the novel.

2. Speech

What he/she says

How he/she says it

What others say about them

3. Thoughts

What he thinks

What other characters think of him

4. Physical appearance

How he looks

Other characters' description of him

A good novelist tries to make his characters move as real people not act like them.

A character would be credible if he has natural features.

More than that, a great novelist creates his character in order to live for a long time.

Most novelists intend to focus on the following aspects when they create their characters

1. "Lifelike" characters – normal characters as people in their society.
2. Interaction between these characters- through kinds of communications
3. Credible consistency. ( A bad character- most of his behaviors are bad )

Characters should be like life; " that they should not keep one side always turned towards the reader." They should show life itself in their actions.

Readers can't usually remember different places from different novels, but they can remember characters from different novels for a long time. Since characters are very important in novels and can make them successful or not, a lot of novelists name their novels after their characters. For example, Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, Dickens' *David Copperfield* and a lot others.

According to E. M. Forester characters are divided into flat and round characters.

#### A. Flat character

It was called "humorous" in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This kind of character is constructed around a "single idea or quality". This character is easily noticed and remembered by the readers because this character is not complicated and very simple.

It is true that human being has more complexity than that shown in flat characters, but it is the "novelist touch" in which this kind of character has a great impact in the novel.

A flat character doesn't present different attitudes.

A flat character is static to some extent.

#### B. A round character

A round character is complicated. He has different attitudes towards life. He is constructed around many different ideas and qualities. A reader can't judge this kind of character from the first meeting in the novel such as a flat character. Usually, he has a great influence on the action all over the novel.

Some critics divide characters according to their roles in their novels into minor or major characters

#### A. Minor character ( secondary)

A character that has not a great part in the novel, but he helps the major characters through the novel.

#### B. Major character ( central)

Simply, most of the events in the novel revolves around this character.

A character in the novel can also be described as the following:

#### Dynamic character:

This character changes after facing difficult situations in the novel( changeable).

#### Static character:

this character doesn't change. He has the same qualities and personality whenever he appears in the novel.

### Protagonist character:

The main character who faces conflicts in the novel.

### Antagonist character:

this character is against the protagonist. He tries to challenge and defy him.

## II. Point of View

- “ According to Percy Lubbock, the point of view is " the question of relation in which the narrator stands to the story."
- “ There is a great difference between "showing" and "telling". Percy Lubbock believes that" the art of fiction does not begin until the novelist thinks of his story as a matter to be shown...that it will tell itself."
- “ Some critics say that the novelist voice is always present in his novels. Even when some novelists try to hide their voices, a good reader can sense the voice of the author and get his message.

### Kinds of narrators

#### 1. First –person narrator

The novelist uses "I" or follows a single character through his adventures by using "he". Usually this first person narrator is the main character who narrates his own story and experience.

#### 2. Omniscient narrator

The novelist knows everything about his characters and events. He can even enter into their personal life and explain their motives.

He shows his characters during a short period of time or a long period of time. He often focuses his attention on one or two characters.

This narrator is free to judge and comment on characters, events or anything since he can see things better than any other person.

The novelist has "access" to his characters and from that access he gets feelings, thoughts, actions...etc.

#### 3. Third –person narrator

There is one character, minor or major, narrates the story from his point of view. He knows everything about some characters, but he doesn't know much about other characters. Therefore, his knowledge of them is limited. He has no idea about other characters.

#### 4. Objective narrator

This is the opposite of the omniscient narrator. The narrator keeps his point of view away and never gets involved to judge events and other characters. There is no direct explanation from the narrator.

The novelist leaves his characters face their fates

Flaubert and many other critics see that "objective" or "impersonal" kind of narration is better than the "appearance" of the author as a spokesman.

#### 5. Multiple narrator

There is more than one kind of narrators in a novel. Thus, this novel is narrated from multiple narrators.

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### Lecture #6

#### Elements of the Novel ( Character -Point of view )

#### The Setting :

Some critics see setting as the place and time in which the events of the novel take place. It deals with the surroundings (environment) of the events.

Setting is very important for novels. But in poems, for example, it is not that important.

Setting changes as the action in the novel proceeds and characters grow in the novel. Thus, through time, seasons, whether, buildings and a lot of other things change. More than that, the whole setting may become different by moving from one place to another.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, novelists employed a natural setting in their novels as the houses of common people. But in the previous ages, there was a kind of supernatural settings such as huge castles and palaces.

#### The components of the setting in the novel

- 1) The physical place  
e.g. Location: city ,country, at sea, on island...etc.
- 2) The time in which the novel takes place
  - a. such as year, season, month, day, hour.
  - b. period of time: such as Restoration, Edwardian, Victorian.
- 3) The social environment  
e.g. Culture and social traditions: such as religious practices, education and games.
- 4) The Weather

e.g. Snow, rain, temperature, and storm.

These components make characters respond differently when they move from one setting to another.

### The Purposes (Functions) of Using the setting

1. Setting is used to give characters a place and time to make their actions. Without setting characters appear lost and rootless.
2. It is used to add more meaning to the characters and events. It shows the underlying details behind the actions of characters. It even shapes the "character's values"
3. In some novels, the setting is a character itself. For example, when a man struggles against nature.
4. It makes the novel authentic. It establishes the background for the novel. Therefore, a novel is like a picture, the characters are the foreground of the picture and the setting is the background. The novel is more artistic with well-done setting.

“ If the setting is misleading in time and place, the reader feels less interested in the events of the novel and becomes careless about it.

### Types of the setting

Every place and time that are created by a novelist can be a type of setting which is different from another one that is set by another novelist.

Even though, setting can be classified into:

**A. Detailed setting:** A creative novelist adds a lot of details to his setting because it is very important as characters and other elements of his novel. It needs imagination and creation, but the novelist adds these details to appear real to fulfill the needs of readers to understand his novel.

**B. Vague setting:** Some novelists use a kind of unclear setting because they focus on other elements rather than setting.

### Another division of the setting can be:

**A. Realistic setting:** usually it exists in real life like ( London, Paris...etc) or it is very similar to real one.

**B. Imagined setting** (unrealistic): it doesn't exist in real life. It is from the novelist's imagination and creation. It is far away from the real setting like living on a far planet, buildings that are floating in the air...etc.

Setting can be revealed through many things like:

**Clothes:** which usually refer to definite place and time.

**Products:** which are made in specific place and time.

**Buildings:** some buildings refer to a period of time and can simply indicate a situation that needs a lot of explanation.

### The Theme

A theme is an idea or concept that is very important to the novel. It is a kind of view towards life and people. It is often stated in one or two words. Such as birth, death or summer vacation.

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, theme is " the subject of a piece of writing".

Some critics see the theme as " the deeper layer of meaning" beneath the events. The theme helps the reader to reach a new understanding of some aspects of the human conditions. The reader finds the theme when he reaches a conclusion about something in the novel.

### The Purposes ( Functions) of the Theme

- 1.It enriches the reader's experience.
- 2.It gives the novel a universal aspect. It has an emotional impact on the reader that makes the novel unforgettable.
- 3.It reveals the novelist's views.

### Types of Themes

Jeremy Hawthorn divides themes into:

**A. The Covert (implicit) theme :** the reader discovers this kind of theme which can be either " consciously intended and indicated" by the novelist or discovered by the reader which perhaps the novelist himself was unaware of it.

**B. The Overt (explicit) theme:** the reader discovers this kind of theme from the actions of characters and other elements of the novel. These elements lead directly to conclude the theme . For example, it is set through the exposition of events and characters.

- “ An experienced novelist does not state his theme directly from the beginning. It should be somehow invisible, but he can hint at and lead the reader to come closer to it.
- “ A novel may have many themes. Sometimes there are some concepts in the novel which pass by, but they are not central to the novel. They should be central to the novel in order to be themes.
- “ Sometimes, there are also several supporting themes that help the main theme in the novel.
- “ Any central idea could be a theme in a novel.

## Examples of themes

Individualism: it was one of the main themes in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Most novelists tried to fulfill the readers' need during that period.

Justice, revenge, death, success are themes.

## The Plot

According to Boulton in *The Anatomy of Novel* (1975), A plot is "a story, a selection of events arranged in time". In this case an event leads to another from the beginning, to the middle, till the end of the novel. There is a relationship between events; there is a kind of sequence.

### The Purposes (Functions) of Using the Plot :

- 1.To keep the reader interested and carry him forward in reading.
- 2.To give the novelist a clear way.
- 3.To provide structure for the novel and organize it.

According to E.M. Forester the plot requires **intelligence** and **memory** to be understood.

**A. Intelligence:** An intelligent novel reader sees new facts from two perspectives, isolated, and related to the other facts. There are sometimes different mysteries all over the novel that need intelligence to unlock them.

**B. Memory:** the "plot-maker" expects that the reader has a good memory, therefore he doesn't leave anything without an end. According to Forster, he should complete what he started with. Every word or event ought to count. This doesn't mean to set the plot straight because it becomes less beautiful without complications and mysteries.

“ Forester says: a plot “may be difficult or easy, it may and should contain mysteries, but it ought not to mislead.”

“ There are different techniques of plot making.

In the eighteenth century, some plots were slow moving. There were long elaborations and descriptions that should be presented to meet the needs of readers at that time.

Later on, in the nineteenth century and later, there were fast-moving plots because there was no need for long elaborations and descriptions. The novel reader became more experienced and aware of these details since he was more educated.

In the nineteenth century, the Victorian novels were usually published in three volumes. Therefore, the plot had to end in each volume at a very important event that could leave the reader in suspense. For that reason, some novelists changed or modified their plots in order to meet the need of their readers at that time.



### Types of the plot :

- A. Arranged plot ( traditional) :** in which the events are arranged in order according to time sequence of the actions.
- B. Unarranged plot( modern):** in which the events are unarranged in their time sequence. For example, there is a flashback.

This is a type of the traditional plot which follows four stages:

- 1. The exposition stage:** where setting is described, the conflict or the action begins and the characters are introduced.
- 2. The complications stage:** the plot gets more complex and the characters try to find solution.
- 3. Climax:** which is the highest point in the plot, the "peak". It is the turning point that changes the action of the plot.
- 4. The resolution stage:** It happens at the end of the novel where the hero or some characters succeed, fail, or sometimes it is left without an end to let the reader conclude it.

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### Lecture #7

#### Daniel Defoe:

#### The Father of English Novel

#### His Early life

Daniel Defoe was born in London. The date of his birth is uncertain. It is said that he was born in 1660. Daniel Foe was the son of James Foe. His father was a middle class merchant. He later changed his name to Daniel Defoe to sound like a gentleman. His mother died when he was about ten years old.

When he was a boy, Defoe witnessed two of the greatest disasters of the 17<sup>th</sup> century:

1. The Great Plague in 1665
2. The Great Fire of London in 1666.

These disasters killed thousands of people. They made Defoe's imagination wider in his writing. He was brilliant in describing

how his characters could manage and survive when facing problems since he himself experienced that.

Defoe was a good student. Later, he was forbidden to enter into Oxford or Cambridge because of his attitudes towards Christianity. This affected his writing where he wrote about this religious discrimination; it was expressed in *Robinson Crusoe*.

### His Business

In 1683, Defoe became a traveling salesman. He travelled a lot to meet the needs of his trade and business. He went to France, Holland, Spain, Germany, Italy and other countries. He was interested in travelling. It is clear in his writing where most of his heroes were travelers such as Robinson Crusoe and

Moll Flanders where both characters travelled away from England and changed their lives. He spoke six languages. His business failed and left him with large debts of more than seventeen thousand pounds.

He was a merchant (tradesman) who faced a lot of difficulties in his business. He underwent success and failure in his business. He became bankrupt in 1692. After four years, he stood up again and became the manager of a tile factory. After that he was ruined in 1703.

### Defoe and Politics

Defoe was interested in politics. He was involved in the rebellion against king James II in 1685. He joined the army of William of Orange. When William of Orange was crowned in 1688 in the Glorious Revolution where he replaced James II, Defoe became one of his close men and a secret agent.

He supported King William of Orange and defended the actions of him through his writing. For example, his most popular poem, *The True-Born Englishman*, focused on racial discrimination in England where a lot of the English people were looking at king William as a foreigner.

King William died and Queen Anne became the ruler of England in 1702. As a result of his political views, he was put into prison in the same year.

Defoe expresses his experience when he says "In the School of Affliction I have learnt more philosophy than at the academy, and more divinity than from the Pulpit: In prison I have learnt to know that liberty does not

consist in open doors, and the free Egress and Regress of locomotion. I have seen the rough side of the world as well as the smooth, and have in less than half a year tasted the difference between the closest of a King, and the dungeon of Newgate."

After he was released from prison, he became careful in his writing. There was a deep relationship between writing and politics. Writers at that time made use of political uncertainty. Defoe switched from one side to the other, from the Whig to the Tory. He was with the Whig when it was in control and moved to The Tory when it became in power. Like that age, he was uncertain of his political attitude.

Defoe was a political journalist before he turned into writing fiction. At his beginning as a writer, Defoe wanted to establish his writing as a means of living. He had troubles in finding a publisher, but he wrote many works which achieved some money for him.

He used a number of pen names, including Eye Witness, T. Taylor, and Andrew Morton, Merchant. His political writings were widely read and made him a lot of enemies. Often he was misunderstood. Therefore, he was trying to hide his real name to be safe from his enemies.

### Defoe as Writer

He was a productive author of the Augustan Age. He was the first of the great 18th-century English novelists. He was a distinguished writer even before he wrote his novels. For example, when he published his poem *The True-Born Englishman in 1701*, he estimated that more than 80,000 copies were sold.

Defoe turned into a new literary path in 1719. He was around 59 years old when he published *Robinson Crusoe*. It is considered the first English novel. He also wrote many other novels after that. Defoe is considered the "inventor" of the English novel.

Daniel Defoe was considered the first writer who did not follow the previous "protocol" of storytelling.

Writers were interested in retelling stories that everyone had already heard. Defoe moved away from this tendency of re-telling stories and began to create characters that were new to the literary tradition. Defoe began writing narratives about characters and their life using new technique which used literary elements similar to real life. Some critics admired the novels of Defoe. Such as Rousseau who said that "fiction was never nearer the truth"

### Views Against Defoe as First English Novelist

Some critics think that Defoe is not the true father of the English novel and *Robinson Crusoe* was not the first novel because:

1. *Robinson Crusoe* lacks some specific elements. He mainly wrote under an economic motive. He wrote for the sake of money. It is clear in his novel when Crusoe takes money from his dead shipmates

even when he knows it will have no use on the island.

2. Some actions need to be finished. For example, Crusoe's relationship with Friday centers on the tasks that need to be finished, such as building the raft and obtaining food.

3. There is a lack of emotional dimension in some important situations.

Dickens said "I will venture to say that there is not in literature a more surprising instance of an utter want of tenderness and sentiment than the death of Friday"

4. There is no psychological insight. Some critics see that it is not enough to tell only a story in its sequence of time.

These critics think that a novel should contain other aspects in addition to the basic elements of characters, setting and plot.

They think that "But if to write a novel is to create a coherent world populated by credible people at least one of whom dominates the main action, and then Defoe's romances or tales of adventure are indeed novels".

### Defoe's Influence on Fiction

Defoe's novels were in the same style as *Robinson Crusoe* - that of a man or woman telling his or her life-story. *Captain Singleton*, *Moll Flanders*, *A Journal of the Plague Year*, *Colonel Jack* and *Roxana* came out from 1720 to 1724. These books founded the literary traditions of the English novel as a new form in its beginning.

Richardson and Fielding took advantage of the new form which was set by Defoe. Phelps says in his book, *50 British Novels: 1600-1900*, that "Richardson and Fielding as the two main pillars of the early English novel - at opposite ends of the building". Richardson and Fielding contributed a lot in the development of the English novel. There was a great impact of Defoe on the development of the English novel.

"During his long career as a writer, Daniel Defoe was to lead what may be the busiest, most varied... life of any English writer."

Another view, Rogers said that Defoe "was a culture hero even when few of his books were read and fewer still admired." In fact, he wasn't famous for his works until long after his death...Defoe is notable for the quantity of hostile material directed against him in his lifetime".

### Defoe's novels

Defoe's most famous novels were:

- “ Robinson Crusoe (1719) his most famous novel which makes him immortal.
- “ Captain Singleton (1720)
- “ Colonel Jack (1722)
- “ Moll Flanders (1722)
- “ Roxana: The Fortunate Mistress (1724)

### Other kinds of writing

Defoe wrote about 200 works of nonfiction prose, 2000 short essays in periodical publications.

He wrote poems such as his collection, A True Collection of the Writings of the Author of the True-Born Englishman, which was published in 1703. It was a collection of poems and political essays.

According to *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Defoe not only “invented both modern journalism and the modern novel,” he has also invented the first “self-help” guide in modern society. For example he wrote, *An Essay upon Projects*, (1697) which dealt with

a set of proposals, or “projects” for improvements in English life and society based on his own experience in the commercial world. These proposals were “kinds of ideas that were making other men rich.”

Defoe died in 1731, but he left behind him great writing traditions in many fields; such as literature, journalism, and business. He became famous and better well known even after his death.

## Lecture #8

### Features of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Reflected in *Robinson Crusoe*

#### Introduction

There are many changes that affected the writing of the novels in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Some novelists try not to show the great influence of negative changes in their narratives, they make use of positive changes. Nevertheless, the novels of this age are full of both kinds of changes. Some novelists intend to reflect the reality of their society. One of them is Daniel Defoe. His novel, *Robinson Crusoe*, is a good example, since it is set as the first English novel and it deals with the changes of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Robinson Crusoe

Defoe wrote about believable characters in realistic situations using simple language. He achieved a literary rank when he wrote *Robinson Crusoe* in 1719.

It is a great novel that has a close approach to life in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Defoe based some of his novel on the real story of the Scottish Alexander Selkirk, who spent around five years on the island of Juan Fernandez.

William Selkirk went to sea in 1704. As a kind of punishment, he was put on the island of Juan Fernandez in the Pacific Ocean. The island was not populated with any human;

it was isolated. He managed to live there until his rescue in 1709. He developed himself and his experience of seeing things better. It seems that Defoe made use of this real story. He built his creative novel on this real event.

#### Why *Robinson Crusoe*

There are several reasons for choosing *Robinson Crusoe*:

1. It is usually considered the first English novel which is written in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Analyzing this novel will reveal the essential changes of the society at that age. In addition, it is a very important novel in the literary tradition.
2. It is a realistic novel. James Berkley says that realism is intended to present a true picture of life at a given time and place. *Robinson Crusoe* by Defoe is a good example of realistic fiction. Ian Watt states that "the novel begins only when Defoe and Richardson discover how to give their characters sufficient particularity and autonomy to make them seem like real people."

According to Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, *Robinson Crusoe* was the most famous novel for a long time. *Robinson Crusoe* is like Defoe himself, “above all, however, it is the greatest mythic fantasy ever written of the solitary survivor who will never succumb. He will not starve, and he will not give into his paralyzing fear or extended isolation. Physically, mentally, and spiritually he survives and grows stronger”.

“ ***Robinson Crusoe* is great because it carries a lot of changes that happened in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (different from other kinds of traditional literature):**

1. It has a new religious approach. There is a human need for God. There is a new perspective which is introduced in this novel.
2. It deals with individual discovery. It is very important for any human to discover himself and build his own personality.
3. It presents materialistic attitude in which a person can be rich. It is found in human nature; part of the human interest is material.
4. It meets the change of the readers’ taste of the middle class. There is a new taste of reading that requires a new kind of writing such as novel.
5. It has normal events which depend on scientific change of that age.
6. It deals with political aspect in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. There is a great effect of politics in the novel. It presents civilization. Human beings can make use of their surrounding environment through using his mind (reason).

### 1. Religious Change

Many readers would consider Robinson Crusoe's adventures as a sign of the growth of religious understanding. There was a kind of religious struggle over power in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in England. In this novel, there was an indication to other people who have no religious ideas.

There is a kind of religious-discovery especially when Crusoe became alone on the island. He found new things about his faith in God such as:

- A. He “finds God” without any help from anyone.
- B. He indicated the influence of some people in England who had religious power; they prevented other people think by themselves.

Crusoe is against any given instruction without explanation from the Church. Crusoe discovers the importance of religion by himself. He is in need for religion. His ideas about

his religion are not clear or complete. For example, he feels superior to other people; he is in command of others because he is an Englishman.

**He accepted his fate. There were many effects of that:**

1. He was thankful to God because he had survived and his shipmates died.
2. He depended on God's will in some of his actions.
3. He prayed to God when he felt afraid.

In Robinson Crusoe, Defoe was open-minded and discussed a very sensitive topic in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the religious aspect of his society. It was not easy to undergo and deal with religious power in the previous age. People of that time had to accept everything about their religion. Defoe himself was a victim of religious conflict many times.

## **2. The Growth of individualism and Freedom**

In this novel there is more focus on the personal experience of Crusoe rather than society; as a group of people.

Robinson Crusoe is a sailor and slave trader. His parents didn't want him to go to the sea. He doesn't take their advice and follows his sense of achieving his dream of being a successful individual.

Crusoe cultivates and adapts himself into his strange environment and makes the island as his kingdom. He doesn't give up to any challenge. He makes his own shelter and farms. He presents his experience in detail in order to reveal the strength and ability of human mind in finding solutions for his problems.

Crusoe is looking for his individual freedom. He doesn't want to stick to the traditional thinking of his society. Even though he is alone on the island, but he feels free and happy to be away from the control of others. He can do whatever he wants; he has the right of his freedom. Some critics consider Crusoe as a prisoner on the island. Crusoe himself is uncertain about his situation, but he likes to be alone and to be away from the restrictions of his society in England.

## **3. The materialistic interest**

There was a tendency to be rich. Crusoe wanted to do anything to become rich; he even wanted to buy slaves from Africa. This was not the attitude of Crusoe alone, but it represented the ambition of each individual in his country.



#### 4. Growing of the Middle class and change of the readers' taste

This novel, *Robinson Crusoe*, created a new class of readers. These readers could taste literature without great efforts that were needed in the previous kinds of literature. Not only the language and the elements were set to meet the needs of the

middle class readers, but even the topic of the novel which revealed new experiences that were close to them. The middle class readers wanted to educate themselves. They wanted long narratives such as *Robinson Crusoe*. There was a growing "nation of readers" at its beginning.

#### 5. Scientific Change (not supernatural)

Most people no longer believed in the supernatural ability in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Robinson Crusoe is a normal character who faces his fate. He becomes afraid when he has any dangerous situation. He has a great impact on the readers when he appears more human.

For example when he sees a print of foot on the shore, he is afraid. **"One day, about noon, going towards my boat, I was exceedingly surprised with the print of a man's naked foot on the shore, which was very plain to be seen on the sand."**

The previous kinds of literature were full of imaginary and supernatural descriptions and characters. Crusoe discovers many things on the island by experimentation. For example, he builds many boats from trees of different sizes and comes to scientific conclusions. He has no supernatural power to move a large boat to the sea; he wants to make a channel

of water to let the water carry the boat. Since it needs a large channel, he makes a smaller one.

Robinson Crusoe presents rational thinking in his life. He moves from the dark or negative side of thinking to positive one. He is a source of knowledge for his readers. He offers his readers great deal of his logical thoughts.

#### 6. Political Change

There is a colonial tendency in Robinson Crusoe. His life on the island and his previous adventures represent a colonial life. James Joyce said of Robinson Crusoe: "He is the true prototype of the British colonist". Crusoe calls himself as the "king" of the island. At the end of the novel, he calls the island as a "colony". The relationship between Crusoe and other characters such as Friday is a relationship between a master and a slave.

## Lecture #9

### Robinson Crusoe and the Main Elements of the Novel

#### Setting

Defoe makes the setting of *Robinson Crusoe* similar to the general setting of England. Crusoe colonizes the island and builds his empire of farms and homes which become larger and larger by time. Also, the British Empire expands by time.

Ian Watt expresses that setting is very important; he indicates that time and place are essential to define the individuality of any object. Defoe is aware of the importance of setting and sees that *Robinson Crusoe* becomes particular when it is related to specific time and place. His characters and other elements of the novel are given their background by the setting.

Defoe tries to break with “the earlier literary tradition of using timeless stories to mirror the unchanging moral varieties”. There is a “lack of interest” in time and its importance in human relationships in the previous kinds of literature. For example, all the actions of a tragedy take only one day; this is not enough to come closer to human life.

Crusoe is interested in showing the time in his narration. He makes his calendar on the wooden cross. He gives dates to most of his actions.

According to Ian Watt, Defoe presented “the individual life in its larger perspective as a historical process”. The reader can sense the personal identity during the flow of experiences in relation to time and place.

Defoe chooses his setting carefully, especially the isolated island. This place and the long period of time are very essential in the novel. The setting contributes in the development of characters in both sides:

1. **Spiritual side**: this setting is a good place for Crusoe to fulfill his spiritual need and understand life better.

He can discover and criticize wrong ideas about his society. He is alone for a long period of time.

2. **Physical side**: in such surroundings, Crusoe is challenged to stay alive with limited facilities of life.

Crusoe succeeds in both sides. He believes that human being can interact with his setting and improve it as he wants.

The setting helps Crusoe to undergo the following changes:

1. Crusoe converts fear into courage.
2. He discovers his God.
3. He believes in fate.
4. He appreciates human relations because of his loneliness.
5. He becomes open-minded.

Without such setting, Crusoe couldn't experience these values that change him. He tries to find new information and starts to be practical in his life. There are many important things around him which can be useful which he was unaware of them.

Ian Watt says that "Defoe would seem the first of our writers who visualized the whole of his narrative as though it occurred in an actual physical environment". The reader can remember many places on the island of Crusoe and many pieces of clothes and hardware. Crusoe becomes attached to his environment. Defoe's is successful in "putting man wholly into his physical setting".

### Character :

There are few characters in *Robinson Crusoe*. The major character is Robinson Crusoe.

Other characters are his servants Friday and Xury. They help Crusoe to survive. Xury helps him escape from slavery. He stays with Robinson until they are picked by a

Portuguese captain. Friday, the other servant, is saved by Crusoe from cannibals who want to eat him.

These characters are considered the first of their types. They are some of the prototypes of the English novel. They have new features and human-like attitudes.

### Crusoe

Robinson Crusoe is the protagonist and the major character of the novel. This character appears at the beginning of the novel as a young man from the middle class. His rebellion against his father's advice to be a lawyer gives the reader a sense that this character is untraditional;

he wants to decide his future by himself. He believes in his ability to undergo new adventure, and ready to be responsible for the consequences what so ever.

It is really brilliant to have a central character like Crusoe who can catch the readers' attention and interest all over the novel. He is isolated and alone in his island.

Creating such character is effective and demands a creative novelist because:

1. Most of the time, Crusoe is almost alone.
2. Most of the events are about this single character. There is not enough interaction with other characters.
3. He sticks to the same place for a long time.

Crusoe is not interested in being a legend or a supernatural hero. On the opposite, he reveals how he is afraid and spends many nights in fear because of "footprint". Robert Louis Stevenson says that "the footprint scene in *Crusoe* was one of the four greatest in English literature, and most unforgettable". He sleeps on trees to be far from dangerous animals. Fear is a human quality as well as courage.

Crusoe is a good example of the English colonist. He is the king on his island; he is in control of everything around him.

It is clear when Crusoe says *"My island was now peopled, and I thought myself very rich in subjects; and it was a merry reflection, which I frequently made, how like a king I looked."*

*First of all, the whole country was my own mere property.... Secondly, my people were perfectly subjected. I was absolute lord and lawgiver, they all owed their lives to me, and were ready to lay down their lives, if there had been occasion of it, for me".*

Other critics say that Crusoe is not a hero but an ordinary man who wants to survive only. There are no great deeds or achievements of the hero. His wealth is gained by chance. He is afraid most of the time. They think that Friday has the features of being a hero more than Crusoe himself.

### Friday :

Friday is a dynamic character. His personality is somehow effective. The reader has a kind of sympathy with this character. He suffers from human injustice. He develops his character and becomes different.

He is a Caribbean native and cannibal who becomes civilized and cultivated by Crusoe.

Crusoe saves his life and makes him his servant. He gives him the name Friday because he saved him on this day. He is a good servant who follows the instructions of Crusoe.

Friday has a very important rank in the literary tradition. He is a universal character that represents the colonized natives. He is a good example of supporting character.

He is the first “non-white” character in the English novel. He stands for the racial discrimination; the “white” people and the others.

Friday is more emotional than Crusoe himself. Friday is very excited when he meets his imprisoned father with the cannibals, whereas, Crusoe is cold towards his family, parents, sisters, brothers and his wife. He doesn't miss them.

### The Portuguese Captain :

This character has a great impact on the life of Crusoe and carries a lot of human values. The real name of the Portuguese captain is never given because this character stands for universal goodness of Europe. Therefore, the European title is better for the purpose of this meaning.

He is honest and loyal. He respects his duties toward Crusoe. He is an example of European goodness. He is generous in nature. He pays Crusoe for the animal skins and his slave instead of taking both of them as slaves. He even gives Crusoe some gifts when he leaves Brazil. This character makes the comparison easier between natives and

cannibals on one side and the civilized captain who comes from Europe on the other side.

### The Spaniard :

He is a man from the Spanish ship which is damaged near the isolated island of Crusoe. He is captured by cannibals. They want to eat him, but Crusoe saves his life.

### Xury :

He is a slave who escapes with Crusoe when he was a slave too in Saltee. There were two slaves with Crusoe when he ran away. He asked one of them to swim to land and kept the other, Xury, because he trusted in this slave-boy. When the Portuguese captain saves them, Crusoe sells Xury to the captain.

### The widow :

She is a flat character. She only keeps the money of Crusoe, 200 pounds, safe for about 35 years and she gives them back to him when he comes back to England. She assures the value of trust in the novel.

## Lecture #10

### Robinson Crusoe and the Main Elements of the Novel: Plot, Theme and Point of View

#### Plot :

Robinson Crusoe is an entertaining novel. Readers enjoy reading such kind of action novel. *Robinson Crusoe* has a straightforward plot. It is simple to follow the development of the action in this novel. It is about a person who wants to go to the sea despite his parents' warning. He has many adventures, but the main adventure is when he becomes on the isolated island as a result of ship-wreck.

The novel seems as an autobiography of the protagonist, Crusoe. It deals with the adventures of him. The plot can be read like this; Crusoe is from a middle class family. His father wants him to be a lawyer. He doesn't accept his father's advice. He goes on a voyage against his father's will. He faces a lot of complications

and problems after that. During one of his voyages, his ship is damaged and he finds himself on isolated island. He stays in this island for more than twenty eight years. He supports an English captain who is betrayed by his crew. This captain takes him to England.

These are the stages of *Robinson Crusoe's* plot:

1. **Exposition stage**: At the beginning of the novel, there is a background for the coming adventures of Crusoe and his refusal to accept traditional way of thinking. He is against many ideas of his society.
2. **Complications stage**: Crusoe wants to go to the sea and doesn't follow the advice of his father. He becomes a merchant. He goes to Brazil and achieves economic success. He wants to travel and buy slaves and bring them back to Brazil.
3. **Climax stage**: In his voyage to buy slaves, his ship is wrecked. He is the only survivor who reaches an isolated island. He is alone in the island.
4. **Resolution stage**: After reaching the island, Crusoe begins to collect some objects from the damaged ship. Then he makes his home and finds his food. He tries to leave the island; he creates a canoe. It is small and cannot be used for long journey. He accepts his fate. He tries to find solutions for his problems with cannibals, food, going back to England and other problems. Finally he goes back to England and becomes wealthy.

The plot is very clear in the original title of the novel. The original title is *The Life and Strange Surprizing Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, of York, Mariner: Who lived Eight and Twenty Years, all alone in an un-inhabited Island on the Coast of America, near the Mouth of the Great River of Oroonoke; Having been cast on Shore by Shipwreck, wherein all the Men perished but himself.*

*With An Account how he was at last as strangely deliver'd by Pirates.*

Defoe focuses his attention in his plot of this novel on **two strategies**:

1. **Realistic events**, which are similar to real life or based on facts.

There is a close relationship between the adventures of Crusoe and these adventures of the real people who lived during that age. It is based on a real story. There are a lot of events that approach the real life.

2. **Descriptive style**, he describes a lot of things in detail.

There are long elaborations all over the novel from the exposition stage till the end because Defoe wants to unfold the secrets of strange surroundings of Crusoe. The plot moves slowly to have a full picture of the adventures in this novel.

### Theme :

There are many different themes in this novel. The most important ones are the following:

1. **Individualism** (there is a desire of human being to fulfill himself)

Crusoe is interested in obtaining his individuality through many aspects:

- A. He wants to be more civilized and educated than other people. (Self civilization, development)
- B. He wants to be wealthy and expands his propriety. (Economic individualism)
- C. He wants to have power and control over his surroundings. (Self independence)

Crusoe makes use of everything around him in the island. He discovers nature and domesticates wild animals such as goats and parrots. He saves food for coming time. He does not wait for help, and leaves working. He starts from the beginning of his existence on the island to think of himself.

Being alone on the island does not make Crusoe like other cannibals. He is aware of his humanity and social status. In the island, he is organized. For example, he has a kind of calendar to feel the time and state his experiences. He wears clothes. He keeps his mind working. He describes things precisely. For example, he tells us the period of time

that he spends in cutting a tree to make his boat (canoe). It takes twenty days to cut a tree and fourteen to clear its branches.

## **2. Colonial theme**

There is a general tendency of slavery in this novel. Crusoe is a kind of colonizer who underestimates other people from other places

such as Africa, America and even other people from Europe who are not British. Crusoe is a prototype of the Englishman at that time where England obtains great power over other countries. He has ambitions to get control over other people in his island. Crusoe teaches Friday to call him “Master” before teaching him anything. On the contrary, Friday is a

symbol of the colonized native who suffers social injustice and imperialism. Crusoe considers Friday as a servant not as a friend.

The English people think that they have better qualities and rank than other people. Crusoe wants to bring “order to disorder”. This is his high purpose of killing some of the cannibals, and at the same time educating one of them; Friday.

## **3. The theme of Social Contact**

Crusoe’s social contact with the Portuguese captain brings him wealth and happiness. At the beginning of his life, the captain takes him to Brazil and Crusoe makes his plantation. He meets him again after twenty eight years to inform him of his fortune in Brazil.

## **4. Religious disillusionment.**

When Crusoe is alone, he becomes closer to God. The nature around him develops his religious belief. Crusoe develops his religious aspects. He is a religious guide in the island who can instruct other characters.

## **5. Family life (sons and parents)**

There is a kind of “original sin”, Crusoe and his parents. His disobedience to his father’s warning. He warned him not to go to the sea. Later, Crusoe is punished and sent to the isolated island as a result of his sin.



## Point of view

Defoe writes *Robinson Crusoe* in the first person point of view. It is totally subjective. It is true that the reader has only one source of narration in the novel. There isn't another source of information that can provide the reader with other views about the events. The reader has to see things through the eyes of Crusoe only.

The narrator depends on logical thinking in this novel. He has realistic attitude in his description through giving a lot of details. The reader has to trust in this narrator because he has a deep interest to look at actions and things. Therefore, using a first-person narrator is a good technique to deal with this kind of autobiographical events.

The point of view in *Robinson Crusoe* expresses the individual experience rather than the collective tradition of the previous kinds of writing.

The point of view in this novel gives reader the chance to follow the adventures of Crusoe so closely.

Since Crusoe reveals his experience through his eyes, there is a kind of trust between the reader and this narrator who introduces new outlook towards understanding life. There is a close relationship between the narrator and the reader.

The reasons behind the close relationship between the reader and narrator are:

1. The reader gets everything in this novel from this narrator. This makes the adventures more believable.
2. The narrator is the person who has taken the adventures himself. He is the original source of the information. He is not talking about the experience of someone else, but it is his experience. It is a "first-hand" experience.

There is a positive point of view towards life. Crusoe is optimistic. He doesn't submit to his isolated situation. As a narrator, he looks at things positively and reveals the goodness of life.

Hunter says that "Crusoe finds the power to overcome a hostile world of hunger and sickness, animal and human brutality, even the power to overcome his most dangerous adversary, himself."

Realism and humanity in *Robinson Crusoe*

Introduction

The readers in the 18<sup>th</sup> century wanted new kind of writing. Therefore, some writers began to think of the need of most people and started to look for some topics that were based on real life which was so close to their humanity. One of these writers was Daniel Defoe. Defoe wrote different types of writing and later wrote his first realistic novel, *Robinson Crusoe* which was

based on real adventures. He is usually considered the first realistic novelist in England.

What is a realistic novel?

A realistic novel is that novel which portrays the real aspects of everyday life. It deals with social life whether it is high or low.

Ian Watt states that realism was related to the “low” subjects and immoral tendency; it was used as an antonym of “idealism”. Realism means more than that. “The novel’s realism does not reside in the kind of life it represents, but in the way it represents it” It takes human experiences and reveals their beauty.

There are many effects of the realistic novel; *Robinson Crusoe*, on the readers in real life such as:

- A. Discovering the humanity and individuality of people. The readers can find the reality of things and ideas by themselves through reading this novel alone without any help. They can get into the external and internal life of any character and construct a full picture of his life.
- B. Finding the truth. For example, Defoe discusses many ideas about his society in *Robinson Crusoe*. He leads his readers to find some true concepts about their social life through logical statements.
- C. Imitating the fictional experience which is realistic and appropriate for them. Through the realistic novel, the readers become more experienced and educated.

These effects are achievable and realistic because this is the real nature of realistic novel. Flaubert, a realist, says that “the novel’s realism does not reside in the kind of life it presents, but in the way it presents it.”

Ian Watt says Realism “begins from the proposition that the truth can be discovered by the individual through the senses”.

In the realistic novel, there is a kind of looking for the truth of things, ideas, people and life in general.

### Robinson Crusoe as a realistic novel :

*Robinson Crusoe* is an imitation of real life not of a literary work. It is original not traditional. This novel is so close to the

common people. It is “a portrayal of low life”. There are many critics who attack this novel and its realistic aspect because they think that it is better to address educated audience in such a work rather than having less educated audience. Other critics, on the other hand, consider this novel great because it is simple and can be read widely; there is a universal audience for this novel.

### Some features of realism and humanity in Robinson Crusoe

Realism and humanity are considered as the main reasons behind popularity and fame of *Robinson Crusoe*.

The aspects of realism and humanity make this novel different and distinguished from the previous kinds of writing.

The language of the novel is simple, similar to everyday language. There is no complicated style of writing.

It is an imitation of real life; it is based on a real story; that of the Scottish traveler.

Defoe states in the preface of *Robinson Crusoe* that it is “just history of fact”. This novel is not a real history, Defoe creates his characters and events from his imagination. Crusoe is different from the Scottish traveler.

### There are three reasons for saying that it is just history of fact;

1. Defoe wants readers to pay attention to historical interest in his novel.
2. He wants his novel to be sold in large number (publication sake)
3. The readers at that time did not yet believe in imagination, they wanted something close to their real life.

Some realistic features appear in the elements of the novel; characters, setting, plot, themes, and point of view

### Realistic characters :

There are normal characters' names which are similar to real names. The names of characters are very important because they achieve individuality, reality and humanity.

The characters are human and realistic. For example,

1. Crusoe is afraid when he faces danger.
2. Friday is loyal to Crusoe because he saved his life from the cannibals.
3. Crusoe has dreams like any human being.

### Realistic setting :

The setting adds more realistic meaning to the novel:

- 1) There are specific names for places such as his original city in England, the York city.
- 2) Crusoe also makes use of his surrounding circumstances. He takes many things from the damaged ship which are useful to survive and manage his live on the island.
- 3) There are also specific dates all over the novel such as the date of his birth; he was born in 1632. He left the isolated island on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1686.

Crusoe says "I left the island, the 19th of December, as I found by the ship's account, in the year 1686, after I had been upon it eight-and-twenty years, two months, and nineteen days; being delivered from this second captivity the same day of the month that I first made my escape in the long-boat ...after a long voyage, I arrived in England the 11th of June, in the year 1687, having been thirty-five years absent."

### Realistic plot

In this novel there is a realistic sequence of events in its plot. Some critics say that this novel has a loose plot, there is no organic unity. It is like real life, there are many people in real life who have not organic unity. They change the sequence of their adventures and living to meet their circumstances. It flows like life itself.

There is a great deal of realistic descriptions in the novel such as building his home in the island, growing wheat and saving some of it for the next season and his food, hunting animals , and a lot of other realistic deeds.

### Realistic themes

The themes of the novel are taken from the real life. Most of these themes are universal and related to human understanding; for example, individualism, disobedience, colonial power, and many others.

### Realistic point of view

Crusoe doesn't make himself as a great hero; he looks at himself most of the time as a normal human being. As a narrator, he describes events as if they are happening in front of his eyes. Therefore, he has a realistic view of everything around him.

## Humanity in *Robinson Crusoe*

Crusoe is a good example of humanity. S. T. Coleridge states that Crusoe becomes “the universal representative, the person, for whom every reader could substitute himself”. Crusoe stands for all human beings.

He represents all the people. He has great ability to survive for a long time. But Aristotle criticizes the man who lives alone by himself; “who is unable to live in society, or has no need because he is sufficient for himself, must be either a beast or a god”.

Crusoe is human and needs social contact with other people. He realizes the real value of his society. After living for a long time without any human contact, he has a spiritual weakness. He discovers that it is not sufficient to live physically, but there is another spiritual side that also makes people more human. He starts to look for his humanity through his

religion which helps him to become human again. There are other things that can make him human, but they are out of reach. He also tries to teach his slave and his parrot in order to have a kind of social contact.

Although, it seems impossible to have such experience which lacks social contact. Crusoe succeeds in that and develops his humanity.

### There are some unrealistic features :

1. There is not enough description of the emotional side of Crusoe and some other characters. This is unrealistic. There is not any romantic love in the life of the hero. The impact of the materialistic thinking of his society is clear and effective in the life of Crusoe.

Crusoe has no emotional feelings towards others including his family. He becomes inhuman and devoid of any emotional reaction. For example, he sells his servant Xury, even after he trusts in him and finds him loyal.

Crusoe decides to make a good man of this slave, but he doesn't complete his mission

and sells him to the Portuguese captain for the sake of money. Some readers think that this is unrealistic since there is a kind of promise between Crusoe and his servant. Other readers can see this event as a kind of realistic relationship between a colonist and a colonized slave because the colonist

sees the colonized as a kind of commodity not as human being.

2. Crusoe gives descriptions of some tools and places, but when it comes to any one of his real adventures he describes it in short.
  3. The period of living alone is too long. It is unrealistic because a man such as Crusoe can manage his escape from the island in less than this period. It would be more realistic to spend less time on the island.
- In spite of these unrealistic features, Defoe presents a realistic novel and he is the master of this kind of writing. There are some human and realistic features in this novel that make it one of the most popular realistic novels.

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Lecture #12  
Analysis of *Robinson Crusoe*  
( Part One)

### Introduction

There are three important periods in *Robinson Crusoe*. The original edition of the novel is not divided into parts or chapters. It is one part; therefore it is very long and should be divided in order to be analyzed. The three parts or periods are: his life and adventures before reaching the isolated island, his life and adventures on the island, and leaving the island to his home.

### Part One

In this part, the narrator, Robinson Crusoe, introduces some information about his life and his family. He tries to follow and fulfill his dream of sailing to other places and undertaking new experience. He is ambitious and adventure-seeker. He never stops thinking of achieving his dream.

Crusoe is a young man who wants to reveal the reality of his humanity. He wants to find out the secrets of life. He no more believes in life without adventure. He keeps looking for new ideas. He plans to leave England.

From the beginning of the novel, it appears that Crusoe does not accept his current situation.

He says "I was born in the year 1632, in the city of York, of a good family, though not of that country, my father being a foreigner of Bremen, who settled first at Hull. He got a

good estate by merchandise, and leaving off his trade, lived afterwards at York, from whence he had married my mother, whose relations were named Robinson, a very good family in that country". Robinson Crusoe is named after the name of his mother's relations.

Crusoe considers himself as a foreigner. His family name is given after his mother's family name. Their origin is German. It appears that there is a social control over the lives of people in England.

He plans to travel and see the other sides of life elsewhere. He has two elder brothers.

One of them is killed at a battle and he doesn't know anything about the other. His father and mother do not want him to leave England. His father advises him not to leave and to accept his situation within the middle class. He tells him that the middle class situation is a blessing from God.

Crusoe shows that as a sincere narrator of the real events that have happened to him. He is faithful and does not change the facts about things to appear as a young man without mistakes. "He(his father) told me ...that mine was the middle state, or what might be called the upper station of low life, which he had

found, by long experience, was the best state in the world, the most suited to human happiness, not exposed to the miseries and hardships, the labour and sufferings of the mechanic part of mankind, and not embarrassed with the pride, luxury, ambition, and envy of the upper part of mankind."

His father asks him to be satisfied with his life because his middle class state is the best one. He says "I was sincerely affected with this discourse, and, indeed, who could be otherwise? and I resolved not to think of going abroad any more, but to settle at home according to my father's desire."

After one year, Crusoe changes his attitude. Crusoe says "I would be satisfied with nothing but going to sea". He leaves home "without God's blessing" or his father's approval. He doesn't think of the following consequences. He sails with a companion from Hull to London September 1, 1651.

This is the first time for Crusoe at sea. He is frightened when the wind blows and the storm begins. He thinks that he has made a great mistake when he sails to the sea. He prays for God. He decides not to go to the sea again if his God saves him this time.

The storm clears. Crusoe says "I entirely forgot the vows and promises that I made in my distress". Crusoe changes his opinion again and wants to sail again.

The master of the ship advises Crusoe; he says "you ought never to go to sea anymore; you ought to take this for a plain and visible

token that you are not to be a (sailor) ...Heaven has given you of what you are to expect if you persist". He continues "What had I done," says he, "that such an unhappy wretch should come into my ship? I would not set my foot in the same ship with thee again for a thousand pounds."

### Sailing to the Coast of Africa :

After his first adventure at sea, Crusoe says "I remained some time, uncertain what measures to take, and what course of life to lead". He does not accept the advice even from the experienced master of the ship.

He sails to the coast of Africa. The captain

advises him to take some goods as a kind of trade. He takes "£40 in such toys and trifles". His voyage to the coast of Africa is successful He brings gold dust to London which achieves him a lot of money. Also, the captain gives him "a competent knowledge of the mathematics and the rules of navigation".

He says "this voyage made me both a sailor and a merchant; for I brought home five pounds nine ounces of gold-dust for my adventure, which yielded me in London, at my return, almost £300"

Therefore, he decides to go back again to the coast of Africa. His companion captain died.

He leaves £200 with his companion's widow. He takes only £100. In his way, some Turkish pirates chase the ship. Crusoe says "our ship being disabled, and three of our men killed, and eight wounded, we were obliged to yield, and were carried all prisoners into Sallee"

Crusoe becomes a slave to the captain of the ship who lives in Sallee, Morocco (north Africa).

After two years of slavery, Crusoe escapes after arranging the fishing boat of his master with a lot of supplies. There are two other servants with him, he forces one of them

to go back to the shore and keeps the young boy who is called Xury. Xury promises to be faithful to Crusoe.

Crusoe says "Xury, if you will be faithful to me, I'll make you a great man; but if you will not stroke your face to be true to me...I must throw you into the sea too." "The boy smiled

in my face, and spoke so innocently that I could not distrust him, and swore to be faithful to me, and go all over the world with me."

Crusoe sails along the coast because he has not navigation instruments. They want drinking water , Xury goes to the shore and



brings water. There are lions on the shore. Crusoe and Xury kill one of these lions and take its skin.

After some weeks, they see a Portuguese ship. Crusoe cannot understand the language of the captain, but there is a Scottish sailor who speaks English. The captain takes them on board with their goods. Crusoe sells his boat, skins of animals and the boat for the generous Portuguese captain. He also sells Xury after the captain says that he will let him free after ten years if he becomes Christian. There is a kind of religious power appears in this situation where Xury can get his freedom if he follows their religion.

He tells Crusoe that the ship is headed for Brazil and he wants to take no money for his ride. They reach Brazil after twenty two days.

Crusoe starts sugar plantation. He thinks of getting his money from England to enlarge his plantation. Then he realizes that he can achieve this kind of life in England. He is not satisfied with such situation.

He discovers that he was mistaken when he sold Xury because he needs many workers to help him in his sugar plantation. He begins to grow tobacco. Therefore, he spends a lot of his wealth to get two servants. This makes him think of going to Africa and buy slaves and bring them to Brazil. Some planters encourage him to sail and bring slaves for them.

He carries on the ship "beads, bits of glass, shells, and other trifles, especially little looking-glasses, knives, scissors, hatchets, and the like" to exchange them with slaves. There is a clear evidence of slavery and superior attitude towards other people such as these natives in Africa.

He sails to Africa on September 1, 1659, which is the same day in which he sailed from Hull to London. In their way, he faces a destructive storm.

Defoe describes their situation during the storm in detail, for example he says that "As the rage of the wind was still great, though rather less than at first, we could not so much

as hope to have the ship hold many minutes without breaking into pieces, unless the winds, by a kind of miracle, should turn immediately about. In a word, we sat looking upon one another and expecting death every moment".

There were eleven men on the ship. After

the destruction of their ship, he "never saw them afterwards, or any sign of them, except three of their hats, one cap, and two shoes that were not fellows".

Crusoe is the only survivor. He doesn't know where he is; in which country. He later finds out that he is on an isolated island.

Lecture #13  
Analysis of Robinson Crusoe  
( Part Two)

Introduction

Crusoe finds himself alone on the island. He describes how he manages his life on this unpopulated place. It is a kind of establishing the essential values of human being such as these which are related to civilization.

Crusoe builds his shelter using trees and simple facilities around him. He cultivates surrounding land. He has some animals that he domesticates through time. Also, he faces the danger of some animals and coming cannibals. There is a great amount of description for his adventures in the island.

**Crusoe finds himself on the island**

Crusoe is lucky because he is the only survivor. He is practical; he wants to get things and supplies from the destroyed ship. When he reaches the ship and finds most of the provisions unspoiled, he thinks of making a raft to carry these things to the island.

He carries food, clothes, ammunition and arms, and some tools. Crusoe is aware of the tide and wind while using his raft. He has now a good experience of navigation after he has sailed for many times.

He is also aware of the real danger of sailing after he has faced the death several times.

Crusoe finds a dog and two cats on the ship. He carries the cats. The dog swims to the shore and becomes his servant. Crusoe says that the dog “was a trusty servant to me many years; I wanted nothing that he could fetch me, nor any company that he could make up to me; I only wanted to have him talk to me, but that would not do”.

Crusoe addresses the dog as being his friend; he uses ‘he’ for this animal. It appears that Crusoe deals with other creatures as his servants. He stands as a superior man most of the time even with animals such as the dog. He has this tendency of enslaving animals before humans.

He keeps going daily to the ship. He says “I had been now thirteen days on shore, and had been eleven times on board the ship... but preparing the twelfth time...( this time) I discovered ...three razors, and one pair of large scissors, with some ten or a dozen of good knives and forks”.

He also finds some money and gold; he says “I found about thirty-six pounds value in money—some European coin, some Brazil, some pieces of eight, some gold, and some silver.” In the next morning, the ship sinks and disappears.

He wants to hide his objects, so he starts discovering the island. He doesn’t know whether this island is inhabited or not. He says “my next work was to view the country, and seek a proper place...to stow my goods to secure them from whatever might happen”.

He begins to look for a better place to secure himself from wild animals, sun or any attack. He states that “I had many thoughts of the method how to do this, and what kind of dwelling to make—whether I should make me a cave in the earth, or a tent upon the earth; and, in short, I resolved upon both”.

He finds a place. It is a little high near the sea, but there is not fresh water nearby. He decides to look for another place. According to him, this place should be:

1. near fresh water.
2. a shelter from the heat of the sun.
3. safe and secure from dangerous animals and people.
4. near the sea, a view to the sea in order to see any ship.

Crusoe takes all these points into his consideration in finding and building his shelter. He builds a fence around his shelter. It takes a lot of time and efforts, but it is very strong that no beast can get into or over it. He makes a cave behind his shelter (tent).

He takes the gunpowder out of his shelter after seeing the lightening; since it can catch fire. He has a logical thinking; he keeps the gunpowder in safe place. Also, He doesn’t waste all the gunpowder on shooting animals. He uses traps to catch animals.

He makes his calendar because time is very important to him. He says “After I had been there about ten or twelve days, it came into my thoughts that I should lose my reckoning of time for want of books, and pen and ink”. Therefore, “to prevent this, I cut with my knife making it into a great cross, I set it upon the shore where I first landed—“I came on shore here on the 30th September 1659.”

He calls the island as “island of despair” in his calendar. He is sad because there are no humans in the island. Nobody has ever lived in this place. Civilization has no access to such isolated island. He sees his situation from two perspectives; ‘Evil’ and ‘Good’; positive and negative.

Crusoe writes his list of ‘Evil’ and ‘Good’ points about some of his situations to comfort himself. These are some of them.

Crusoe makes whatever he needs. He makes a table and chair. He says "I began to apply myself to make such necessary things as I found I most wanted, particularly a chair and a table; for without these I was not able to enjoy the few comforts I had in the world; I could not write or eat, or do several things, with so much pleasure without a table".

### **Crusoe's religious reflection (spiritual) :**

When the earthquake hits his cave, he is afraid and thinks that he is going to be buried alive. He asks his God to save him. He says "Lord have mercy upon me!" He decides to find another safe place. He remembers that human being is weak and has no control of his fate.

Crusoe becomes ill and suffers from fever. He prays to God; he says "Lord, what a miserable creature am I! If I should be sick, I shall certainly die for want of help; and what will become of me!" He is again without any help. There is no body who may take care of him.

Crusoe reveals his spiritual side when he is afraid or weak only. He realizes the power of his God. He also remembers his father's advice. He says "my dear father's words are come to pass; God's justice has overtaken me, and I have none to help or hear me." He is alone without any help.

Crusoe decides to discover the island and goes further than before. He wants to see the other sides of the island. He goes with his dog. He finds new kinds of fruits in the island such as "melons upon the ground, in great abundance, and grapes upon the trees".

Crusoe catches a parrot and decides to keep it. He names it 'Poll'. This bird is a kind of good company for Crusoe. He teaches the bird some words. Crusoe says "it followed me like a dog: and as I continually fed it, the creature became so loving, so gentle, and so fond, that it became from that time one of my domestics also, and would never leave me afterwards".

He makes a large canoe from a big tree. He spends several months, but he doesn't figure out how to get it from the land into the water. It is too late that he has made his calculations. He has not thought of the way in which this canoe can be moved to the sea. He thinks of bringing water to the canoe and making the water carry it.

But it is not a good idea since it needs a lot of time to make a channel for that sake. He makes another one which is smaller.

Crusoe once saw a footprint on the sand. He says “It happened one day, about noon, going towards my boat, I was exceedingly surprised with the print of a man’s naked foot on the shore, which was very plain to be seen on the sand”.

Crusoe was afraid. He “went to it again to see if there were any more, and to observe if it might not be (his) fancy; but there was no room for that, for there was exactly the print of a foot—toes, heel, and every part of a foot”.

He had several explanations for this print;

1. this footprint was the work of the devil
2. it was for one of the cannibals
3. it was his footprint

Crusoe wants to take care of his goats, but he is afraid to go outside his shelter, but the goats have to be milked. He doesn’t leave his place “for three days and nights”. He also has nothing left to eat. He collects his courage again and leaves his shelter.

He realizes that he is not alone on this island. There are other people who come to the island.

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## Lecture #14

### Analysis of Robinson Crusoe ( Part Three)

#### Introduction

Crusoe discovers that there are other people who come to the island. He becomes no more alone. He is careful and afraid after seeing the footprint on the shore. He finds that some cannibals come to this island; they eat their victims. He saves one of these victims, Friday, and makes him his servant. Crusoe and Friday save Friday's father and a Spaniard from another group of cannibals.

Later, there are some sailors who come to the shore of the island. Crusoe realizes that these sailors have led a rebellion against their captain. Crusoe helps the captain to restore the control over his ship. Crusoe and Friday sail with this captain towards Europe. Crusoe reaches England and gets married. He visits his island again and he promises to have other adventures in the coming future.

#### Leaving the island

Crusoe is frightened and cautious after he sees the footprint. He considers his goats very important because:

- a. they supply sufficient food
- b. there is no need for hunting with guns; he can save gunpowder.
- c. there is not physical effort; not tired of getting food from far places.

Therefore he decides to protect and take care of his goats He says "For this purpose, after long consideration, I could think of but two ways to preserve them: one was, to find another convenient place to dig a cave underground, and to drive them into it every night; and the other was to enclose two or three little bits of land, remote from one another, and as much concealed as I could".

Crusoe finds out that there are some cannibals who come to the island. They were inhuman and brutal; they eat other humans. He thinks that he should take revenge and kill these cannibals when they come again to the island. He never goes out without his guns. He realizes that he has not the right to do so.

He says "How do I know what God Himself judges in this particular case? It is certain these people do not commit this as a crime... they do not know it to be an offence, and then commit it in defiance of divine justice, as we do in almost all the sins we commit. They think it no more a crime to kill a captive taken in war than we do to kill an ox; or to eat human flesh than we do to eat mutton."

Crusoe has been for twenty three years in the island. It is in December, when he sees a light approaching the shore early in the morning. He said" I presently found there were no less than nine naked savages sitting round a small fire they had made, not to warm them, for they had no need of that, the weather being extremely hot, but, as I supposed, to dress some of their barbarous diet of human flesh which they had brought with them, whether alive or dead I could not tell." This is the first time that these cannibals set their dances and rituals on this side of the island.

Crusoe prepares himself very well since they will come again. After "a year and three months", he sees the cannibals again.

Crusoe hears a gun fire at sea. He finds that it is a signal of a Spanish ship that is destroyed. There are no survivors. He finds a body of a young boy. Crusoe takes some useful things from the ship. He also finds some money and gold, he saves them in his cave. He has a lot of money; he can go to England now. He is looking for leaving the island. He is more aware of the serious danger that surrounds him. He even has the cannibals in his dreams.

Crusoe becomes obsessed with leaving the island instead of being eaten by these cannibals.

Other cannibals come again. He says "I was surprised one morning by seeing no less than five canoes all on shore together" This time they have two victims; they eat one of them and the other runs away. Three of the cannibals follow him, but one of them cannot swim. Crusoe knocks one of them and shoots the other. He saves the life of this man who

becomes his slave. Crusoe names him Friday because he saves him on this day. Friday is capable to be more human than being a brutal cannibal; Crusoe tells him not to eat other human flesh. Crusoe gives him clothes to wear. He teaches Friday how to sail. Friday and Crusoe begin to build a large boat. It takes several months.

Crusoe and Friday free two men from the cannibals, one of them is Spanish (Spaniard) and the other is Friday's father. Friday is so happy and emotional; "it would have moved any one to tears to have seen how Friday kissed him, embraced him, hugged him, cried, laughed, hallooed, jumped about, danced, sang; then cried again, wrung his hands, beat his own face and head; and then sang and jumped about again like a distracted creature."

Crusoe sends the Spaniard and Friday's father to bring other Spanish sailors in order to leave the island. After eight days, eleven men come on a boat to the shore. Crusoe discovers that they are English. There are three prisoners who are left under a tree. Crusoe comes close to the prisoners at night and finds out that one of them is the captain of the ship.

The captain tells Crusoe that his men have led a rebellion against him. Before Crusoe frees them he says that he has two conditions; "my conditions are but two; first, that while you stay in this island with me, you will not pretend to any authority here; and if I put arms in your hands, you will, upon all occasions, give them up to me, and do no prejudice to me or mine upon this island, and in the meantime be governed by my orders; secondly, that if the ship is or may be recovered, you will carry me and my man to England passage free."

So his conditions are:

1. He is in control in this island.
2. The captain will take him to England for free (without any fare)

The captain agrees. Crusoe frees him and his men and helps him to get control and order over his ship again. They kill two of the mutineers, the other six give up. Crusoe and the captain arrange a plot to take control of the ship. Later they take some of the men who come from the ship in search for their companions as prisoners and get order to the ship again.

Crusoe leaves these prisoners on the island and gives them some instructions to survive. He also leaves a letter for the Spaniard who will come later.

Crusoe says "When I took leave of this island, I carried on board, for relics, the great goat-skin cap I had made, my umbrella, and one of my parrots; also, I forgot not to take the money I formerly mentioned, which had lain by me so long useless that it was grown rusty or tarnished, and could hardly pass for silver till it had been a little rubbed and handled, as also the money I found in the wreck of the Spanish ship. And thus I left the island, the 19th of December, as I found by the ship's account, in the year 1686, after I had been upon it eight-and-twenty years, two months, and nineteen days"

Crusoe arrives to England on June 11, 1687.

He wants to see his family. He says "my father was dead, and my mother and all the family extinct, except that I found two sisters, and two of the children of one of my brothers."

### **The Sources of his wealth :**

1. the money and gold that he has brought with him( from the destroyed ships)
2. Crusoe is rewarded by merchant because he has saved the captain and his ship.

He says " I met with one piece of gratitude indeed, which I did not expect; and this was, that the master of the ship, whom I had so happily delivered, and by the same means saved the ship and cargo, having given a very handsome account to the owners of the manner how I had saved the lives of the men and the ship, they invited me to meet them and some other merchants concerned, and all together made me a very handsome compliment upon the subject, and a present of almost £200 sterling."

3. He meets the widow who has kept his money; £200, all over these years.
4. Later he meets the Portuguese captain after this long period to inform him that his wealth in Brazil is waiting for him.

Crusoe becomes very rich. He has more than 'five thousand pounds' in cash, real estate in the Brazil that brings a thousand pounds a year, and another estate of lands in England. Crusoe gets married and has "three children, two sons and one daughter; but (his) wife dying".

He decides to travel again. He sails to his island, the "new colony in the island." He says "Here ( in the island) I stayed about twenty days, left them supplies of all necessary things, and particularly of arms, powder, shot, clothes, tools, and two workmen, which I had brought from England with me"

Crusoe goes to Brazil. He sends animals; "five cows... some sheep, and some hogs" to his island. He also wants to send wives to the island.

Crusoe promises to have more adventures in the coming ten years in the second part of his story.

مع تمنياتي للجميع بالتوفيق والنجاح : "خوخ وزهر"