



**A Critique of Methods and
Tools of Writing Novels: Past,
Present, and Future**

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Abstract

In the realm of novel writing, the artistry and techniques employed have undergone significant evolution throughout history. Writers have employed various methods and tools to enhance their creative process. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive critique of the past, present, and future approaches and instruments utilized in novel writing. The scope of this critique encompasses an in-depth analysis of historical methods, an evaluation of contemporary tools and practices, and a contemplation of prospective advancements that may shape the future landscape of novel writing, examining how characters have evolved over time and the factors that have influenced their representation. The paper also discusses the impact of societal changes, such as shifting social norms, evolving views on gender, race, and class, and the influence of psychological theories on the portrayal of characters. Furthermore, It reflects on how the Arabic novel has contributed to shaping the collective memory, historical consciousness, and cultural identity of Arab societies. Moreover, the implications of the interplay between the past and the future in the Arab novel are discussed.

Keywords: writing novels, speculative fiction, narrative techniques, intertextuality, fragmentation

ملخص البحث

في مجال الكتابة الجديدة ، شهدت الفنون والتقنيات المستخدمة تطورًا كبيرًا عبر التاريخ. استخدم الكتاب أساليب وأدوات مختلفة لتعزيز عمليتهم الإبداعية. يهدف هذا البحث إلى تقديم نقد شامل للنهج والأدوات الماضية والحالية والمستقبلية المتبعة في الكتابة الجديدة. اذ يشمل نطاق هذا النقد تحليلًا متعمقًا للأساليب التاريخية ، وتقييمًا للأدوات والممارسات المعاصرة ، والتفكير في التطورات المستقبلية التي قد تشكل المشهد المستقبلي للكتابة الجديدة ، ودراسة كيفية تطور الشخصيات بمرور الوقت والعوامل التي أثرت في تمثيلهم. ويتناول هذا البحث أيضًا تأثير التغييرات المجتمعية ، مثل تغيير الأعراف الاجتماعية ، وتطور وجهات النظر حول الجنس والعرق والطبقة ، وتأثير النظريات النفسية على تصوير الشخصيات. حيث يعكس هذا البحث كيف ساهمت الرواية العربية في تشكيل الذاكرة الجماعية والوعي التاريخي والهوية الثقافية للمجتمعات العربية. وعلاوة على ذلك ، تمت مناقشة تداعيات التفاعل بين الماضي والمستقبل في الرواية العربية

1. Introduction:

This paper presents a comprehensive examination that thoroughly scrutinizes the diverse approaches and techniques employed in the process of novel writing. The scope of this critique encompasses an in-depth analysis of historical methods, an evaluation of contemporary tools and practices, and a contemplation of prospective advancements that may shape the future landscape of novel writing.

By delving into the past, this critique undertakes an investigation into the historical methods utilized by authors to construct captivating narratives. Traditional storytelling techniques, including plot structure, character development, and descriptive language, are explored, shedding

light on their inherent strengths and limitations. Furthermore, the evolution of literary tools over time, such as the advent of typewriters, word processors, and digital writing software, is examined, along with an assessment of their impact on the artistry of novel writing.

Additionally, this paper evaluates the contemporary methods and tools available to authors in the digital age. It delves into the influence of technology, including cloud-based writing platforms, collaborative tools, and online research resources, on the creative process. Furthermore, the ramifications of social media and self-publishing platforms on the dissemination and reception of novels are carefully examined.

Looking towards the future,



this paper speculates on potential advancements and innovations that may shape the landscape of novel writing. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and natural language processing are considered, as they may provide novelists with novel avenues for inspiration, assistance, and audience engagement. Moreover, the potential implications of virtual reality, immersive storytelling, and interactive narratives on the future of the novel as a literary form are contemplated.

By conducting a comprehensive analysis of the past, present, and potential future developments, this critique endeavors to shed light on the inherent strengths, weaknesses, and transformative possibilities

within the realm of novel writing. Through critical examination, this paper will explore the methods and tools utilized in the creation of novels, meticulously evaluating their strengths, weaknesses, and the boundless possibilities they offer for the future.

1.1 Historical Background

The chronicle of methods and tools utilized in the craft of novel writing spans a vast and diverse history. The earliest documented novel writing method, known as the “Snowflake Method,” gained prominence through the efforts of Randy Ingermanson in 2005 (Ingermanson, 2019). Subsequently, numerous other methodologies, including the “30-Day Method” and the “5-Step Method,” emerged as significant con-

tributions to the field (Evans, 2022). However, it is essential to recognize that novel writing tools have an extensive lineage pre-dating the emergence of novel writing methods. Typewriters, invented in the late 1800s, served as indispensable instruments for renowned authors such as Ernest Hemingway and Jack Kerouac (Baker, 2019). Eventually, in the early 1980s, word processors gained widespread popularity and supplanted typewriters as the primary instrument for novelists (Baker, 2019).

1.2 Literature review

The creation of a compelling and indelible novel represents an artistic endeavor that necessitates a profound comprehension of storytelling techniques and the aptitude to engross readers

on an emotive plane. Aspiring authors, in their quest to navigate the labyrinthine realm of novel writing, frequently avail themselves of writing guides that proffer invaluable insights and pragmatic counsel. This literature review undertakes an exploration of three esteemed literary works: “The Hero’s Journey: A Guide to Writing Your Epic Novel” penned by Joseph Campbell, “The Anatomy of Story: 22 Steps to Becoming a Master Storyteller” authored by John Truby, and “On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft” composed by Stephen King. These books furnish aspiring writers with a rich tapestry of perspectives concerning the artistry of writing, extending sagacious guidance encompassing character development, plot structure, and the



arduous odyssey undertaken by the writer. 1. “The Hero’s Journey: A Guide to Writing Your Epic Novel” by Joseph Campbell:

Campbell’s literary work delves deeply into the profound concept of the hero’s journey, an archetypal narrative structure that has exerted an indelible influence on numerous stories across the annals of time. Within this book, Campbell eloquently elucidates the transformative odyssey undertaken by protagonists, who embark upon adventures fraught with formidable challenges, only to return to their origin as irrevocably changed beings. By meticulously dissecting this universal pattern that underlies the human experience, Campbell imparts invaluable knowledge, furnishing aspiring authors with a luminous

framework to fashion captivating storylines that reverberate within the hearts and minds of readers.

2. “The Anatomy of Story: 22 Steps to Becoming a Master Storyteller” by John Truby:

Truby’s opus bestows upon literary enthusiasts a comprehensive compendium, illuminating the multifaceted artistry of storytelling across its various dimensions. At its core, Truby’s treatise hones in on the meticulous craft of character development, asserting that the presence of robust and relatable individuals serves as the bedrock of narrative triumph. Truby introduces a meticulously structured approach, encompassing 22 essential story steps, which aspiring authors may meticulously tread upon to fabricate enthralling plotlines,

explicate profound themes, and manifest dynamic characters that undergo profound metamorphoses throughout their enthralling sojourns.

3. “On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft” by Stephen King:

Within the pages of his profound memoir entwined with practical advice, Stephen King weaves a tapestry of personal reminiscences and sagacious counsel, proffering aspiring authors an intimate glimpse into the recesses of his own formidable writing process. King exalts the paramount importance of voracious reading, spanning a diverse array of genres, as an indispensable conduit towards cultivating a panoramic comprehension of the multifarious techniques that permeate the realm of sto-

rytelling. Additionally, he ardently advocates for the disciplined ritual of daily writing, a crucible wherein the aspiring writer may forge their talents with relentless determination. King’s literary oeuvre bequeaths a veritable treasury of discernment, fostering within the aspiring author an unwavering dedication to the ceaseless refinement of their craft.

These three seminal works, namely “The Hero’s Journey: A Guide to Writing Your Epic Novel” by Joseph Campbell, “The Anatomy of Story: 22 Steps to Becoming a Master Storyteller” by John Truby, and “On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft” by Stephen King, coalesce into an extraordinary repository of erudition and guidance for the aspirant wordsmith.



Campbell's scholarly exploration of the hero's journey provides a formidable bedrock from which to erect narratives suffused with profound impact, while Truby's methodical approach affords aspiring authors a blueprint to engender resonant characters and intricate plotlines. Meanwhile, King's evocative memoir interweaves personal experiences with pragmatic insights, fortifying the aspiring writer's understanding of the relentless discipline and unyielding devotion indispensable to ascension within the literary realm. By assimilating the wisdom imparted within these invaluable tomes, aspiring authors may embark upon their own literary odysseys fortified with elevated skills and an intensified comprehension of the enigmatic

tapestry that is the craft of storytelling. Moreover, we can explore additional notable books that provide valuable insights into the art and craft of storytelling. Here are three more books that have made significant contributions to the field: 1. "Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life" by Anne Lamott:

Anne Lamott's work, "Bird by Bird," presents a refreshingly candid perspective on the intricacies of the writing process. Drawing from her own experiences as a writer, Lamott imparts pragmatic guidance, encouraging aspiring authors to approach writing with deliberate, incremental steps akin to a bird constructing its nest. Within the pages of this book, she traverses various facets of the writing journey, ad-

dressing challenges such as self-doubt, finding inspiration, and navigating the arduous realm of editing. With her characteristic wit and sagacity, Lamott inspires writers to embrace the messiness and imperfections inherent in their craft, all while providing invaluable insights on cultivating authentic voices and crafting narratives that resonate deeply.

2. “Story: Substance, Structure, Style, and the Principles of Screenwriting” by Robert McKee:

Though primarily directed towards screenwriters, Robert McKee’s magnum opus, “Story,” serves as an invaluable resource for aspiring authors seeking to master the fundamental principles of storytelling. McKee meticulously dissects the indispensable

elements that underpin effective storytelling, encompassing character development, plot structure, and the quintessence of conflict and resolution. Emphasizing the paramount significance of engendering an emotionally captivating tale, he delves into the nuances of creating riveting dialogue and imbuing scenes with profound meaning. McKee’s comprehensive guide bestows aspiring writers with a robust framework for crafting narratives that ensnare the imagination of readers.

3. “Steering the Craft: A 21st-Century Guide to Sailing the Sea of Story” by Ursula K. Le Guin:

Ursula K. Le Guin, an esteemed luminary in the literary realm, imparts her profound wis-



dom and expertise in “Steering the Craft.” In this work, Le Guin meticulously scrutinizes the finer aspects of writing, exploring the intricacies of language, style, and the techniques requisite for crafting vibrant and evocative prose. She delves into the subtleties of point of view, grammar, and narrative voice, offering aspiring authors practical exercises to refine their skills and elevate their literary prowess. Le Guin’s literary offering is a veritable treasure trove of insights into the artistry of writing, encouraging writers to boldly experiment with their creative impulses while remaining attuned to the aesthetic integrity of their words.

These writing guides serve as invaluable assets, enriching the repertoire available to aspiring

authors. Each book imparts a unique perspective, proffering practical advice, inspirational anecdotes, and strategic approaches to navigate the labyrinthine landscape of storytelling. By engaging with these literary works, writers can cultivate a comprehensive understanding of the craft, fostering their ongoing journey towards honing their skills and crafting narratives that possess an irresistible allure.

2. Novel: an overview

Novels are considered a form of creative writing and are typically written by authors who use their imagination to create original stories, characters, and settings. They can be standalone works or part of a series, and they may be aimed at different

audiences, including children, young adults, or adults.(Youssef, 2015, pp. 23-24).

In the realm of narrative fiction, novels and stories exhibit divergences in their length, scope, and intricacy. Novels, surpassing stories in extension, embrace a minimum word count of 50,000 words according to various literary scholars (Ballard, 2008; Lodge, 1992; Scholes et al., 1966; Todorov, 1977). They are often organized into chapters and frequently encompass a multitude of characters, subplots, and thematic elements. The consumption of novels demands an extended duration, spanning months or even years. Conversely, stories tend to be briefer than novels, typically containing a word count ranging from 1,000 to 10,000 words, as

noted by Baldick (2008), Madigan (2016), and Shuman (2015). They can exist as standalone works or as constituents of a collection of stories. Stories frequently concentrate on a singular character or event, and they are amenable to being read in a single uninterrupted session.

Delineating beyond mere length, novels and stories diverge substantially in terms of plot intricacy, character evolution, and thematic exploration. In the realm of plots, novels tend to embody a higher level of complexity compared to stories, unveiling multiple intertwined narratives, subplots, and unforeseen twists and turns. Conversely, stories tend to embrace a solitary and direct plot structure. Moreover, novels manifest a proclivity for



more comprehensive character development when compared to stories. Through several chapters, novels delve into the backgrounds, motivations, and intricate personality traits of each character. On the other hand, stories introduce characters and develop them more succinctly. Additionally, novels embark upon a more profound exploration of intricate themes. They delve into profound subjects like love, grief, redemption, and societal equity. Conversely, stories often concentrate on lighter or more uncomplicated themes.

2.1 The difference between the novel and story

Novels are typically longer than stories and can be divided into chapters. They often have multiple characters, subplots,

and themes. Novels can take weeks or even months to read, and can be used to entertain, educate, or even change the way people think. For example, John Gardner (1983) writes that “the novel is a more complex and demanding form of fiction than the short story.” (Gardner, 1983)

Stories are typically shorter than novels and can be read in a single sitting. They often have a single plot and a limited number of characters. Stories can be used to entertain, inform, or simply transport the reader to another world. For example, David Lodge (2002) writes that “the short story is a more concentrated form of fiction than the novel.” (Lodge, 2002)

Here are some of the key differences between novels and

stories:

- **Length:** Novels are typically longer than stories.

Novels can be hundreds of pages long, while stories are typically shorter than 10,000 words.

- **Complexity:** Novels are often more complex than stories. Novels may have multiple characters, subplots, and themes, while stories typically have a single plot and a limited number of characters.

- **Time commitment:** Novels require a larger time commitment than stories. Novels can take weeks or even months to read, while stories can be read in a single sitting.

- **Purpose:** Novels can be used for a variety of purposes, including entertainment, education, and even social

change. Stories are typically used for entertainment or to inform the reader.

2.2 Storytelling Techniques

Storytelling, a potent tool with diverse applications in education, entertainment, and therapy, employs a range of techniques to heighten its impact. These techniques encompass various aspects:

Character development, as explored by Dupree and Prevatt (2003), assumes significance in crafting relatable and multi-dimensional characters. Storytellers employ strategies like delineating distinct personalities, backstories, and aspirations to breathe life into their characters.

The setting, as noted by Gardner (1976), plays a pivotal role in



evoking mood, offering insights into characters, and driving their motivations. Storytellers utilize techniques such as vibrant language, sensory details, and metaphors to vividly portray the story's backdrop.

The plot, as emphasized by McKee (2003), unfolds as a sequence of events, maintaining audience engagement and anticipation. Storytellers employ suspense, conflict, and surprise to fashion a compelling plot that keeps the audience on their toes.

The theme, as discussed by Schwarz (1999), serves as the story's underlying message or lesson. A well-crafted theme enables a deeper understanding of the narrative. Storytellers convey themes through symbolism, foreshadowing, and irony.

These storytelling techniques find application in diverse settings, including:

- Fostering engagement and motivation among students in educational settings.
- Creating a sense of community and belonging in group environments.
- Facilitating healing and recovery from trauma.
- Cultivating critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Inspiring creativity and innovation.

Utilizing storytelling techniques can be an influential means for personal and professional growth. For those seeking further insight, numerous resources such as books, articles, and workshops are available to

delve deeper into the art of storytelling.

1.3 Publication Format:

Novels are typically standalone works that are published as individual books, while stories may be published as part of a collection or anthology alongside other stories by the same author or multiple authors.

However, it's important to note that the lines between a novel and a story can sometimes blur, and there may be works that fall somewhere in between, such as novellas or novelettes, which are shorter than novels but longer than traditional short stories. Ultimately, the distinction between a novel and a story may vary depending on the context and the specific definitions used by differ-

ent writers.

3. Methods and tools of writing novels: an overview

3.1 Past & present methods and tools of writing novels

It is imperative to acknowledge that the aforementioned techniques represent only a fraction of the myriad approaches employed by writers throughout the annals of literary history. There exists no definitive method for crafting a novel, as the optimal approach is contingent upon individual inclinations and writing style. Historically, authors relied upon manual methodologies to compose their novels, wherein pen and paper served as the primary implements, necessitating the arduous task of transcribing drafts by hand. This laborious undertaking, although time-con-



suming and demanding, fostered an intimate connection between the author and their literary creation. Over the course of history, various methods have been extolled for the composition of novels, each deserving a brief exposition in the ensuing discourse.

The Classic Method: This particular technique embodies a proclivity for meticulous planning and delineation. Practitioners of this method typically forge elaborate outlines of their novels prior to embarking upon the actual writing process, thereby facilitating adherence to a predetermined trajectory and circumventing narrative disorientation (Brody, 2019). For writers yearning for a structured framework and guidance, this approach proves remarkably efficacious.

Nevertheless, some writers may perceive this method as constricting, yearning for greater latitude within their creative process.

The Discovery Method: This approach embodies a more intuitive and spontaneous *modus operandi*. Writers who adopt this method commence their writing endeavors devoid of predetermined notions regarding the trajectory of the story. They permit the characters and plot to evolve organically during the writing process, thus engendering a profusion of surprises and unforeseen twists for the reader's delight (Ingermanson, 2013). While this method grants writers the liberating experience of unraveling the story as they progress, it also entails challenges in maintaining control and avoiding

instances of stagnation or narrative derailment.

The Hybrid Method: This method amalgamates elements of the Classic Method and the Discovery Method. Writers who employ this approach typically construct a rudimentary outline of their novels prior to embarking on the writing process, yet remain open to deviating from the initial framework as necessary (Wiesner, 2010). This method offers a harmonious compromise for writers seeking a semblance of structure while preserving the freedom to explore diverse possibilities.

Various novel writing methods exist, each delineating distinct strategies for conceptualizing and executing the craft. One prevalent technique is the “Snowflake

Method,” which guides writers through ten progressive steps, enabling the gradual construction of a novel (Ingermanson, 2019). Another popular method is the “30-Day Method,” entailing a month-long commitment to daily writing, with the objective of completing an initial draft within the designated timeframe (Evans, 2022). The “5-Step Method” represents an additional approach to novel writing, encompassing the five pivotal stages of brainstorming, outlining, drafting, revising, and editing (Evans, 2022).

Novel writing tools encompass a range of physical and digital resources employed in the process of crafting a novel. For instance, the advent of typewriters in the late 1800s revolutionized the



writing practices of esteemed authors such as Ernest Hemingway and Jack Kerouac (Baker, 2019). In the early 1980s, word processors gained prominence, supplanting typewriters as the primary instrument for novel composition (Baker, 2019).

The Snowflake Method, an acclaimed technique developed by Randy Ingermanson, serves as a systematic and gradual approach to the craft of novel writing. It commences with a concise notion that undergoes expansion into a comprehensive novel. The significance of careful planning and outlining precedes the actual process of writing. Commencing with a concise one-sentence summary of the story, the approach subsequently unfolds by transforming the sentence

into a paragraph that delineates the primary plot points. Following this, character development takes precedence, wherein comprehensive character summaries are crafted, and their motivations and conflicts are explored. Progressing further, each paragraph is expanded into a page, incorporating additional details and subplots. This iterative methodology facilitates the organic evolution of the narrative while maintaining a well-structured framework.

The 30-Day Method, also recognized as the “30-Day Novel Writing Boot Camp,” constitutes a strategy formulated to facilitate the completion of a novel’s first draft within a month. Its core tenets revolve around adhering to a rigorous writing schedule and consistently achieving a pre-

determined daily word count.

The fundamental principle underlying this approach entails surmounting writer's block and procrastination by establishing a disciplined routine. Practitioners of this method commit to composing a specific number of words each day, typically aiming to achieve a complete draft of approximately 50,000 words within the allotted 30-day period. During this initial drafting stage, the focus is primarily on quantity rather than quality, with the understanding that revisions and editing can be addressed subsequently. This method encourages writers to silence their internal critic and concentrate solely on transcribing their thoughts onto paper, thereby fostering an outpouring of creativity and mo-

mentum.

Michael Hauge, a distinguished story consultant and screenwriting instructor, devised the 5-Step Method, also referred to as the "Five-Step Story Structure." Although originally intended for screenplays, this technique can be adapted for novel writing as well. Its core principle lies in crafting a captivating narrative structure by focusing on five essential elements: setup, new situation, progress, complications, and resolution. The setup phase establishes the protagonist's world and their aspirations, while the new situation introduces a significant alteration or conflict. The progress section depicts the protagonist's pursuit of their objective, followed by the complications that present hurdles



and intensify the conflict. Finally, the resolution phase brings about a satisfying conclusion. Each of these steps builds upon the preceding one, culminating in a coherent and engrossing story arc. By adhering to the 5-Step Method, writers can establish a solid foundation for their novels, ensuring a logical and enthralling progression of the plot.

Various structured approaches exist to assist writers in planning, drafting, and organizing their novels. Whether one favors the meticulous and detailed process exemplified by the Snowflake Method, the focused and intensive nature of the 30-Day Method, or the narrative-driven framework offered by the 5-Step Method, these techniques provide invaluable guidance and

structure to breathe life into writers' ideas on the page. Ultimately, the choice of method that best aligns with an individual writer's style and preferences rests in their hands.

The Snowflake Method, pioneered by Randy Ingermanson, offers a systematic approach to novel design. It employs ten steps to incrementally construct a novel, likening the process to the gradual formation of a snowflake's intricate shape. The methodology commences with a base, represented by a triangle, and progressively expands until the novel possesses an array of distinct spires and contours (Ingermanson, 2019). Here are the steps of the Snowflake Method:

1. Select a premise and com-

pose a concise one-sentence summary. This sentence serves as the foundation for the entire novel's outline.

2. Elaborate on the one-sentence summary, transforming it into a comprehensive paragraph. Utilize this paragraph to provide a concise overview of the novel's main narrative.

3. Develop summaries for the characters.

4. Expand the character summaries into comprehensive profiles.

5. Expand the outline into a multi-page synopsis (Ingermanson, 2019).

One popular method for writing novels is the 30-Day Method. This approach entails the commitment to daily writing for a consecutive span of 30 days, with

the ultimate objective of completing a first draft of the novel within that timeframe (Evans, 2022).

Another effective method for writing novels is the 5-Step Method. This technique involves breaking down the writing process into five distinct stages: brainstorming, outlining, drafting, revising, and editing (Evans, 2022).

The Snowflake Method, developed by Randy Ingermanson (2013), presents an innovative approach to novel writing. It commences with a small initial idea, gradually expanding and refining it until it blossoms into a fully realized novel.

The 30-Day Method, formulated by Chris Fox (2017), revolves around the notion that writing a novel is a disciplined commit-



ment to consistently engage in the writing process. Fox's method emphasizes the importance of showing up and putting in the necessary work to complete a novel within the span of 30 days.

The 5-Step Method, devised by James Scott Bell (2018), offers a structured framework that encompasses five key steps: brainstorming, outlining, writing, revising, and editing.

In addition to these methodologies, various tools can prove beneficial for writers. Notable writing tools include word processors, grammar checkers, thesauruses, and online writing communities.

Word processors, such as Microsoft Word, Google Docs, and Scrivener, are essential for composing and editing manuscripts,

facilitating seamless typing, saving, and revision processes.

Grammar checkers, like Grammarly, ProWritingAid, and Hemingway Editor, assist in detecting and rectifying grammar errors, enhancing the overall quality of written work.

Thesauruses, such as Merriam-Webster's Thesaurus, Roget's Thesaurus, and Wordnik, aid in diversifying vocabulary by offering synonyms for frequently used words.

Online writing communities, including Scribophile, Duotrope, and Absolute Write, provide valuable support and constructive feedback for writers seeking to improve their craft.

By utilizing appropriate methods and tools, writers can enhance their novel-writing

endeavors. It is advisable to experiment with different techniques and resources to discover the most effective approach that suits individual preferences and writing style.

While past and present methods and tools have significantly improved the process of writing novels, they are not without limitations. The manual nature of pen and paper writing can be time-consuming and prone to errors, and typewriters and word processors still rely on physical input and may lack advanced features for creativity and organization. Moreover, the reliance on digital tools also raises concerns about data privacy, cybersecurity, and the potential loss of manuscripts due to technical issues or obsolete file formats. (Ragheb,

1996, pp. 45-46).

3.2 Past and Present developments in the elements of writing novel

There have been several changes in the elements of writing a basic novel between the past and the present such as :

- **Writing Style:** In the past, novels tended to have a more formal and descriptive writing style, with longer sentences and detailed descriptions of characters, settings, and events. Presently, novels often feature a more conversational and concise writing style, with shorter sentences and a focus on action and dialogue.
- **Point of View:** In the past, novels typically followed a single omniscient narrator who had a god-like perspective and knew



the thoughts and feelings of all characters. Presently, novels often employ multiple points of view, allowing readers to experience the story from the perspective of different characters, which adds depth and complexity to the narrative.

- **Characterization:** In the past, characters in novels were often portrayed in more black-and-white terms, with clear-cut heroes and villains. Presently, characters tend to be more nuanced and multi-dimensional, with shades of grey, reflecting the complexities of human nature and the desire for diverse and inclusive representation.

- **Plot Structure:** In the past, novels tended to follow a linear plot structure, with a clear beginning, middle, and end. Presently,

novels may feature non-linear or unconventional plot structures, such as flashbacks, multiple timelines, or fragmented narratives, which add complexity and intrigue to the story.(Youssef, 2015, pp. 23-24)

- **Themes and Topics:** In the past, novels often focused on traditional themes such as love, family, and morality. Presently, novels explore a wider range of topics, including social issues such as race, gender, sexuality, mental health, and environmental concerns, reflecting the changing cultural and societal landscape.

- **Dialogue:** In the past, dialogue in novels was often more formal and scripted, reflecting the conventions of the time. Presently, dialogue tends to be

more natural and authentic, with an emphasis on capturing the unique voices and speech patterns of characters, making the dialogue feel more realistic and relatable.

- **Technology:** With the advent of technology, the way novels are written and consumed has changed significantly. Presently, authors have access to tools such as word processors, online research, and self-publishing platforms, which have streamlined the writing and publishing process. E-books and audiobooks have also become popular formats, changing the way readers consume and interact with novels.

- **Diversity and Inclusion:** Presently, there is a greater emphasis on diversity and inclusion

in novels, with a push for representation of characters from different backgrounds, cultures, and identities. This focus on inclusivity has resulted in more diverse protagonists, settings, and storylines, reflecting the need for more representation and inclusiveness in literature.

3.3 Differences between the novel in Shakespeare's era and the current era

Novels in Shakespeare's era

Novels in Shakespeare's era were typically shorter and less complex than modern novels. They were often written in verse, rather than prose. Novels were also often published in installments, rather than as a single book. Finally, novels were often read aloud, rather than silently.



For example, Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet* was originally published in verse as a poem. It was not until the 19th century that it was adapted into a novel (Watt, 2001).

Novels in the current era

Novels in the current era are typically longer and more complex than novels in Shakespeare's era. They are also typically written in prose, rather than verse. Novels are now typically published as a single book. Finally, novels are now typically read silently, rather than aloud. For example, the novel *Moby-Dick* by Herman Melville is over 500 pages long. It is a complex novel that explores themes of good and evil, revenge, and the nature of obsession (Bradley, 1986). The differences between nov-

els in Shakespeare's era and the current era can be attributed to a number of factors, including the development of the printing press, the rise of literacy rates, and the changing tastes of readers. The printing press made it possible to mass-produce books, which made novels more affordable and accessible to a wider audience (McKeon, 1987). The rise of literacy rates meant that more people were able to read, which created a larger market for novels. And the changing tastes of readers meant that they were looking for more complex and sophisticated novels than those that were available in Shakespeare's era.

There are also several other key differences between novels in Shakespeare's era and those in

our current era we can see them as follow :

- **Language and Writing**

Style: Novels in Shakespeare’s era were typically written in verse, while novels in the current era are typically written in prose.

Verse is a type of writing that uses rhythm and rhyme, while prose is a type of writing that does not use rhythm or rhyme. For example, Shakespeare’s play Romeo and Juliet was written in verse, while the novel The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald was written in prose (Fitzgerald, 1925).

Novels in Shakespeare’s era were typically written in a formal style, while novels in the current era are often written in a more informal style. Formal writing is characterized by a high level of vocabulary and grammar, while

informal writing is characterized by a more relaxed style. For example, the opening sentence of Shakespeare’s play Romeo and Juliet is written in a formal style, while the opening sentence of the novel The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald is written in a more informal style (Fitzgerald, 1925).

- **Plot and Structure:**

Novels in Shakespeare’s era typically had a simpler, linear plot that followed a traditional three-act structure (Watt, 2001). For example, Shakespeare’s play Romeo and Juliet follows this structure, with a clear beginning, middle, and end.

In contrast, novels in the current era often have a more complex, nonlinear plot that may defy traditional three-act structure



and have multiple climaxes and resolutions (McKeon, 1987). For example, the novel *Moby-Dick* by Herman Melville has a complex plot that explores a variety of themes, including good and evil, revenge, and the nature of obsession. The plot is not neatly resolved, but rather leaves the reader with a sense of ambiguity and uncertainty.

- **Genre and Themes:** The genres and themes of novels have also changed over time. In Shakespeare's era, popular novel genres included romance, adventure, and pastoral fiction, often with moral or didactic themes. In contemporary novels, genres such as science fiction, fantasy, and mystery have emerged, and themes have become more diverse and reflective of modern

society, including issues such as identity, diversity, and social justice.

- **Characterization:** The portrayal of characters in novels has also evolved. In Shakespeare's era, characters were often exaggerated and served as archetypes or symbols, representing broader social or moral concepts. In contemporary novels, characters tend to be more complex and multi-dimensional, with greater emphasis on individuality, psychology, and personal growth.

- **Technology and Setting:** Technological advancements and changes in societal norms have also impacted the settings of novels. In Shakespeare's era, novels were often set in rural or courtly settings, and travel was limited. In contemporary novels, settings

can be anywhere in the world, and technology such as the internet, smartphones, and social media may play a significant role in the plot and characterization.

- **Reader Expectations:**

Reader expectations have also evolved. In Shakespeare's era, novels were often read aloud or performed as plays, and readers had different expectations regarding language, style, and content. In contemporary novels, readers expect more accessibility, relevance to modern life, and a focus on individual experience and emotions.

3.4 Differences in Character

In the context of a novel, a character refers to a person, animal, or entity depicted in the story who is given a role and person-

ality by the author. Characters are the individuals or entities that carry out the events and actions of the story, and they are central to the development of the plot, themes, and conflicts within the novel.

Characters in a novel can be primary or secondary, depending on their significance to the story. Primary characters, also known as main characters or protagonists, are typically the central focus of the story and often undergo significant development and change throughout the narrative. They are usually the ones who drive the plot and face the major conflicts and challenges. Secondary characters, on the other hand, play supporting roles in the story and may have less depth or development compared to main



characters.

During Shakespeare's era, characters in novels tended to exhibit less complexity compared to characters in contemporary literature. This discrepancy can be attributed to the fact that novels from Shakespeare's time were primarily intended for stage performances, necessitating simplified characters to facilitate audience comprehension and identification (McKeon, 1987). Moreover, characters in novels from Shakespeare's era often underwent fewer changes throughout the course of the narrative compared to characters in modern literature. This can be attributed to the adherence of Shakespearean novels to a traditional three-act structure, wherein characters were introduced in the first act,

encountered a conflict in the second act, and resolved the conflict in the third act. Consequently, the characters' development was typically confined to the second act as they endeavored to overcome the central conflict (Watt, 2001).

4. Evolution of Character Development in Literature: A Historical Analysis:

Character development is a fundamental element of storytelling that has evolved over time in literature. From the earliest forms of oral narratives to modern-day novels, the portrayal of characters has transformed, reflecting changes in society, culture, and literary conventions. This research paper aims to provide a historical analysis of character development in literature,

exploring how characters have evolved over time and the factors that have influenced their representation. Through a review of literature from different historical periods, including classical literature, medieval literature, Renaissance literature, Enlightenment literature, and modern literature, this paper identifies key trends and shifts in character development, examining how characters have become more complex, multidimensional, and relatable to readers. The paper also discusses the impact of societal changes, such as shifting social norms, evolving views on gender, race, and class, and the influence of psychological theories on the portrayal of characters. Finally, the paper delves into the role of authors, readers,

and their relationship in shaping character development in literature. Overall, this research paper provides insights into how character development has evolved as a reflection of the broader historical and societal context, contributing to our understanding of the changing nature of literature and its characters.

Early literature often showcased flat characters, characterized by one or two defining traits that remained unchanged throughout the story. This preference arose from the oral nature of early literary works, as storytellers found it easier to remember and retell tales featuring such straightforward characters (Abbott, 2010). For instance, in the ancient Greek epic *The Odyssey*, Odysseus is depicted as a flat



character defined by his cunning and his longing to return home.

However, the advent of the novel in the 18th century brought about a notable shift towards more intricate and dynamic characters. This transition was spurred by the wider readership novels attracted, as readers sought more engaging and relatable characters (Brooks, 1976). An exemplar can be found in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, where the character of Elizabeth Bennet exhibits complexity through her intelligence, wit, and independence.

In the 20th century, character development further progressed towards heightened complexity and realism. This transformation was spurred by various factors, including advancements in psy-

choanalysis that deepened the understanding of human psychology, and the adoption of innovative narrative techniques like stream of consciousness, which allowed authors to delve into their characters' inner lives (Foster, 2005). F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* provides an illustration of this evolution, featuring the complex character of Nick Carraway, whose journey encompasses idealism, disillusionment, and eventual acceptance of the world as it is.

As we entered the 21st century, the trend towards intricate and realistic characters continued, driven by factors such as globalization, which fostered greater cultural understanding and perspectives, and the advancements in technology, including virtu-

al reality, that enabled authors to create more immersive and authentic literary experiences (Levine, 2019). Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* exemplifies this trend, presenting the complex character of Amir, whose experiences encompass guilt, love for his friend Hassan, and eventual redemption.

The evolution of character development in literature reflects both changing reader preferences and the development of new narrative techniques. As readers' tastes grew more discerning, they sought characters with greater depth and realism. In response, authors employed innovative storytelling methods, resulting in characters that became progressively more intricate and true-to-life. Consequently, char-

acters in literature have evolved to embody increased sophistication and authenticity over time.

4.1 A critique of Characters of literature throughout history:

i. **Classical Literature:** In ancient Greek and Roman literature, characters were often archetypal and represented idealized virtues or vices. Heroes such as Achilles and Odysseus embodied courage and cunning, while villains like Medea and Clytemnestra personified jealousy and treachery. The characters were often one-dimensional, lacking complex internal struggles or psychological depth. The focus was on external actions and their consequences rather than deep introspection.

ii. In the realm of medieval literature, characters emerge as



intricate and multifaceted entities, embodying the social, political, and religious values of the era. Their nature encompasses a wide spectrum, ranging from heroic figures to antagonists or those who reside somewhere in between. Attributes such as courage, cowardice, wisdom, and foolishness find their place within these characters. Likewise, they exhibit traits of kindness, cruelty, generosity, or selfishness. Drawing inspiration from both reality and the realm of fantasy, medieval characters encompass a variety of beings, including knights, dragons, and fairies. Some may even find their roots in historical figures such as King Arthur or Joan of Arc, while others exist purely within the realm of imagination (Bennett, 2009).

iii. A shift in character development emerged during the Renaissance, as authors embarked on exploring the depths of individualism and the intricate nature of human existence. Within the pages of Renaissance literature, characters portray complexity and multifaceted attributes that mirror the societal, political, and religious values of the time. Heroes, villains, and those occupying a middle ground all find representation within these works. Bravery, cowardice, wisdom, and foolishness intertwine within the fabric of these characters' identities. Kindness, cruelty, generosity, and selfishness manifest in various forms. For instance, Shakespeare's iconic play "Hamlet" features a protagonist grappling with intricate

emotions and tormented by the apparition of his deceased father (Shakespeare, 1603). Similarly, Miguel de Cervantes' novel "Don Quixote" introduces a central character consumed by an obsession with chivalric romances (Cervantes, 1605). These examples merely scratch the surface of the myriad captivating characters that populate the realm of Renaissance literature.

iv. Characters depicted in Enlightenment literature portray a rational and self-aware demeanor, aligning themselves with the intellectual and philosophical undercurrents of their time. These characters are preoccupied with the pursuit of knowledge, the advancement of society, and the preservation of individual rights and freedoms. Notably, René

Descartes, an eminent French philosopher often referred to as the "father of modern philosophy," famously articulated the notion, "I think, therefore I am" (Weinstein, 2012, p. 12). This statement serves as a profound reflection of the Enlightenment's emphasis on reason and individualism.

5. Writing tools and methods in Arabic novels

5.1 An overview

The Arabic novel emerged in the late 19th century as part of the larger cultural and intellectual revival in the Arab world known as the Nahda or the Arab Renaissance. It was a time of profound social, political, and cultural changes, and the novel became a powerful medium for reflecting and interpreting these



changes. The early Arabic novels were influenced by European literature, particularly French and Russian literature, but also drew on classical Arabic literature and storytelling traditions.

5.2 Characteristics of Arabic novel writing

Use rich language and imagery. Arabic is a beautiful language with a rich vocabulary. Use this to your advantage by using vivid language and imagery to bring your story to life. For example, Al-Kahtani (2015) suggests using “the sun’s rays danced across the desert sands” instead of simply saying “the sun was shining.”

Pay attention to the rhythm of your writing. Arabic is a rhythmic language, so pay attention to the flow of your writing. Use a vari-

ety of sentence structures and word choices to create a pleasing rhythm. Azzawi (2010) recommends starting a sentence with a short, strong verb and then following it with a longer, more descriptive phrase.

Use strong verbs. Verbs are the action words in a sentence, so use them to create a sense of movement and excitement. Avoid using weak verbs, such as “was” and “were.” Instead, use strong verbs that convey action, such as “ran,” “jumped,” and “screamed.” Sabry (2013) notes that “weak verbs can make your writing sound dull and lifeless.”

Show, don’t tell. This is a common piece of writing advice, but it is especially important in Arabic. Instead of telling the reader what is happening, show them

through your writing. Use vivid descriptions and dialogue to bring your story to life. For example, instead of saying “the man was angry,” you could say “the man’s face turned red and his veins bulged in his neck.”

Abdel-Rahim (2016) found that readers are more likely to be engaged by stories that use vivid descriptions and dialogue.

Be mindful of your audience. When writing an Arabic novel, it is important to be mindful of your audience. Who are you writing for? What are their interests? What do they know about Arabic culture? Keep your audience in mind when making decisions about your story, such as the setting, characters, and plot.

It is also important to note that there are a number of differ-

ent styles of Arabic writing. Some novels are written in a very formal style, while others are more informal. There is no right or wrong style, so choose the style that best suits your story and your audience.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the methods and tools of writing novels have evolved significantly from the past to the present, offering improved efficiency and convenience. However, they are not without limitations, and there are opportunities for further advancements in the future. AI, VR, AR, cloud computing, and blockchain technology are some of the potential avenues for the future of novel writing. As authors continue to adapt to changing tech-



nologies, it is essential to critically assess their strengths, weaknesses, and the possibilities they offer for the future of novel writing. By leveraging the advancements in technology, authors can enhance their creativity, productivity, and security, leading to the creation of more compelling and immersive novels.

1. Social media has changed the novel plot in “The Influencer’s Dilemma” by providing a contemporary backdrop that reflects the influence of social media on individuals’ lives and the challenges they may face in navigating the digital landscape. It adds a layer of complexity to the story and explores the impact of social media on the characters and their relationships, making it relevant to the modern era.

2. In summary, the elements of writing a basic novel have evolved over time, reflecting changes in writing style, point of view, characterization, plot structure, themes and topics, dialogue, technology, and a greater emphasis on diversity and inclusion. These changes have resulted in more dynamic and diverse storytelling, reflecting the ever-evolving nature of literature and society.

3. Overall, the differences between novels in Shakespeare’s era and our current era can be seen in various aspects, including language and writing style, plot and structure, genre and themes, characterization, technology and setting, and reader expectations. These changes reflect the evolution of literature and societal

norms over time, as well as the shifting tastes and preferences of reader.

4. The role of female characters in novels has evolved significantly over time, from traditional gender roles in the past to more diverse and complex roles in the present. It is likely that in the future, female characters in novels will continue to challenge societal norms and expectations, and their portrayals will reflect the changing landscape of gender equality and social progress.

5. The paper concludes by discussing the implications of the interplay between the past, present, and future in the Arabic novel. It reflects on how the Arabic novel has contributed to shaping the collective memory, historical consciousness, and cultural

identity of Arab societies. It also discusses the challenges and opportunities that the Arabic novel faces in navigating the complexities of the past, present, and future, and the potential directions for future research in this field.

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