Sajawal Wani
M.Phil Scholar English, Apex
University Jaipur Rajasthan,
India

Dr. Nupoora Sharma
Associate Professor,
Department of English, Apex
University Jaipur Rajasthan,
India

The Victorian age

Sajawal Wani and Dr. Nupoora Sharma

Abstract
The works by pre-Victorian writers such as Jane Austen and Walter Scott had perfected both closely-observed social satire and adventure stories. Popular works opened a market for the novel amongst a reading public. The 19th century is often regarded as a high point in British literature as well as in other countries such as France, the United States and Russia. Books, and novels in particular, became ubiquitous, and the "Victorian novelist" created legacy works with continuing appeal. The Victorian era was the great age of the English novel — realistic, thickly plotted, crowded with characters, and long. It was the ideal form to describe contemporary life and to entertain the middle class. Of course, in the literature from this period, we see a duality, or double standard, between the concerns for the individual (the exploitation and corruption both at home and abroad) and national success.

Keywords: The victorian age, jane austen walter, scott victorian, novelits

Introductions
Definition: A novel (from French nouvelle Italian novella, "new") is an extended, generally fictional narrative in prose. Until the 18th century the word referred specifically to short fictions of love and intrigue as opposed to romances, which were epic-length works about love and adventure. During the 18th century the novel adopted features of the old romance and became one of the major literary genres.

Origins
The dominant genre in world literature, the novel is a relatively young form of imaginative writing. Only about 250 years old in England—and embattled from the start— its rise to pre-eminence has been striking. After sparse beginnings in 17th century England, novels grew exponentially in production by the 18th century and in the 19th century became the primary form of popular entertainment.

Historical background
Victorian literature is literature, mainly written in English, during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837–1901) (the Victorian era). It was preceded by Romanticism (1800 to approx. 1850) and followed by the Edwardian era (1901–1910). Queen Victoria had a profound effect on the nineteenth century. Many events occurred during her reign in England and in the rest of the world. Many places in the British colonies were named after her. Even the nineteenth century has been referred to as the Victorian Era or Victorian England or the Victorian age. Victoria also changed the way the monarchy in Britain worked. During her reign Britain was the most prosperous nation in the world. England had gone from a rural society to an urban one. Britain did not lose a war during her reign. She also inspired authors to do writings on human rights and saving the poor. Victoria affected the rest of Europe because she was the "Grandmother of Europe". She put on the Great Exhibition of 1851, the Golden Jubilee, and the Diamond Jubilee to show, how great the British Empire is. The British created a new renaissance.

Development of the Novel
In the first half of the 19th C the English became a nation of avid novel-readers. Theatres were disreputable, possibly even immoral. Poetry especially Byron was popular but people wanted stories. Women had already triumphantly demonstrated their ability to compete successfully with their brother novelists. Mrs. Radcliffe (1764-1823), Fanny Burney (1752-1840), Maria Edgeworth (1767-1849), Jane Austen (1775-1817). Contributing to a rapid rise in the popularity of the novels were the growth of a moneyed, leisured and educated middle

Corresponding Author:
Sajawal Wani
M.Phil Scholar English, Apex
University Jaipur Rajasthan,
India

class reading public, and an increase in the number of circulating libraries. Serialization was to some extent an artistic strain on the novelists, but many major works, particularly those by Dickens, Thackeray and Hardy were the first protagonists in this way. Thackeray was born in 1811, Dickens in 1812, Trollope in 1815, Charlotte Bronte in 1816, Emily Bronte in 1818, George Eliot in 1819, Samuel Butler in 1835, George Meredith in 1828 and Thomas Hardy in 1840. The novelists of the first half of the century identified themselves with their age and shared a special climate of ideas, feelings and assumptions. They accepted the idea of progress without much question. The age represented the triumph of Protestantism.

Later novelists came to question and criticize and became hostile to the dominant assumption. The character of scientific discovery was seriously disturbing the 19th century minds. Instead of providing evidence that the universe is both stable and transparent to the intellect, it showed the universe to be incessantly changing and probably governed by the laws of chance. After the publication of The "Principles of Geology" (1830-3) by Charles Lyell and later "On the Origin of Species" (1859) and "The Descent of Man" (1871) by Charles Darwin, many intellectuals were forced into religious disbelief, or into some form of personal religions which, though it might contain elements of Christianity was essentially untheological.

Factors that gave rise to English novel
Novel was not originated in England basically. It came to England in 18th century. That doesn't mean that it was not evolved before. But whenever we think of novel, English novel comes in our mind. There are following factors which gave rise to English novel.

Rise of the middle class
The industrial revolution was a period from the 18th to19th century where major changes in agriculture, manufacturing, mining, transport and technology had a profound effect on the socio-economic and cultural condition starting in the United Kingdom, then spreading through out Europe. It happened after the industrial revolution that the middle class rose to power and economically good. The aristocratic class had epic, romance, drama for their leisure but there was nothing for the middle class to pass time with. In 18th century the middle class was gaining power and they wanted to have a genre, of their own which they can read, that was the time when novel was introduced so we can say the rise of middle class is directly the rise of novel.

Decline of Drama
Theatre was banned in the puritan age during Cromwell's reign in 17th century. To fill the gap the dramatist turned into novelist. It wasn't something which happened over night of course it took about 70-80 years. The novel got its roots established by that time and when drama returned in modern period after such a long gap, it was not as much appreciated as novel.

Fall of Romance
Romance was mainly for the Elite class and the bored from it, and it was not much successful in grasping the attention of the readers because the setting in which Romances took place were centuries old and outdated, while the novel talks more about the contemporary issues which used to intrigue

the readers more. Secondly, Romances were always written in 3rd person while the novel has autobiographical style which looks more personal and recent. Thirdly, Romance was like epic. The style was really elevated and it used to discuss the great adventures of great heroes while the novel is for common people and people used to relate to the stories in novel. And lastly, the plot in Romance used to be an extended one while the plot of novel is a more compact and precise one.

The Printing Press
Before the printing press i:e 17th century, the word novel was synonym to news. They can either be fictional or factual and used to travel through journalist balled. The contribution of printing press was that it published those journalistic balled and it become easier for people. The main role of printing press was that it changed the mode of writing from verse to prose and people also distinguished between news and novel.

Leisure
Due to industrial revolution, all the manual work was done by machines then and it gave people a lot of free time to enjoy themselves and thus they started paying more attention to novels.

Reading Public
There was the rise of literacy rate in the 18th century. There were charity schools which used to give education to the poor people. And thus the rise of literacy made people more inclined towards reading novels.

Mobile Libraries
There's been a cart full of books and those who were members used to get free books. The carts used to come to the house of the members and used to give them new books and take old ones. Women were really interested in that because they used to be at home mostly.

Realism
The topics were related to common life. The names used are the
common names of people e:g the surname Andrews was very famous in the 18th century so Henry Fielding named his main character Joseph Andrews, to make it more real and people can relate to it easily. The characters were made individuals and gives clear description of the character. And that detailed description of the setting which added more realism in novel.

Beginning of a literary career
Much drawn to the theatre, Dickens nearly became a professional actor in 1832. In 1833 he began contributing stories and descriptive essays to magazines and newspapers; these attracted attention and were reprinted as Sketches by "Boz" (February 1836). The same month Dickens was invited to provide a comic serial narrative to accompany engravings by a well-known artist; seven weeks later the first installment of The Pickwick Papers appeared. Within a few months Pickwick was the rage and Dickens the most popular author of the day. During 1836 he also wrote two plays and a pamphlet on a topical issue (how the poor should be allowed to enjoy the Sabbath) and resigning from his newspaper job, undertook to edit a monthly magazine,

Bentley's Miscellany, in which he serialized Oliver Twist (1837–39). Thus, he had two serial installments to write every month. Already the first of his nine surviving children had been born; he had married (in April 1836) Catherine, eldest daughter of a respected Scottish journalist and man of letters George Hogarth. For several years his life continued at this intensity Finding serialization congenial and profitable, he repeated the Pickwick pattern of twenty monthly parts in Nicholas Nickleby (1838–39); then he experimented with shorter weekly installments for The Old Curiosity Shop (1840–41) and Barnaby Rudge (1841). Exhausted at last, he then took a five-month vacation in America, touring strenuously and receiving quasi-royal honours as a literary celebrity but offending national sensibilities by protesting against the absence of copyright protection. A radical critic of British institutions, he had expected more from "the republic of my imagination," but he found more vulgarity and sharp practice to detest than social arrangements to admire. Some of these feelings appear in American Notes.

Features of Victorianism
The discoveries of science have particular effects upon the literature of the age. If you study all the great writers of this period, you will mark four general characteristics:

1. Literature of this age tends to come closer to daily life which reflects its practical problems and interests. It becomes a powerful instrument for human progress. Socially & economically, Industrialism was on the rise and various reform movements like emancipation, child labor, women's rights, and evolution.
2. Moral Purpose:- The Victorian literature seems to deviate from "art for art's sake" and asserts its moral purpose. Tennyson, Browning, Carlyle, Ruskin – all were the teachers of England with the faith in their moral message to instruct the world.
3. Idealism:- It is often considered as an age of doubt and pessimism. The influence of science is felt here. The whole age seems to be caught in the conception of man in relation to the universe with the idea of evolution.
4. Though, the age is characterized as practical and materialistic, most of the writers exalt a purely ideal life. It is an idealistic age where the great ideals like truth, justice, love, brotherhood are emphasized by poets, essayists and novelists of the age.

The style of Victorian Novel
Victorian novels tend to be idealized portraits of difficult lives in which hard work, perseverance, love and luck win out in the end. Virtue would be rewarded and wrongdoers are suitably punished. They tended to be of an improving nature with a central moral lesson at heart. While this formula was the basis for much of earlier Victorian fiction, the situation became more complex as the century progressed. There was a struggle to cont virtues. It was a principle that those who struggle to attain morality would most probably achieve positive results in the end if not tortured by natural circumstances or evil vice.

Most significant novelist during victorian age
Charles Dickens, in full Charles John Huffam Dickens, (born February 7, 1812, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England-died June 9, 1870, Gad's Hill, near Chatham, Kent), English novelist, generally considered the greatest of the Victorian era. His many volumes include such works as "A Christmas Carol", "David Copperfield", "Bleak House", "A Tale of Two Cities", "Great Expectations", and "Our Mutual Friend".

Charles Dickens
Quick Facts
Born:- February 7, 1812
Portsmouth, England
DIED:- June 9, 1870 (aged 58) Chatham, England

Notable Works
Dickens published well over a dozen major novels and novellas, a large number of short stories, including a number of Christmas-themed stories, a handful of plays, and several non-fiction books. Dickens's novels were initially serialised in weekly and monthly magazines, then reprinted in standard book formats.

- The Pickwick Papers (The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club; monthly serial, April 1836 to November 1837
- Oliver Twist (The Adventures of Oliver Twist; monthly serial in Bentley's Miscellany, February 1837 to April 1839)
- Nicholas Nickleby (The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby; monthly serial, April 1838 to October 1839)
- The Old Curiosity Shop (weekly serial in Master Humphrey's Clock, April 1840 to November 1841) Barnaby Rudge (Barnaby Rudge: A Tale of the Riots of Eighty; weekly serial in Master Humphrey's Clock, February to November 1841)
- A Christmas Carol (A Christmas Carol in Prose: Being a Ghost-story of Christmas; 1843) Martin Chuzzlewit (The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit; monthly serial, January 1843 to July 1844)
- The Chimes (The Chimes: A Goblin Story of Some Bells That Rang an Old Year Out and a New Year In; 1844)
- The Cricket on the Hearth (The Cricket on the Hearth: A Fairy Tale of Home; 1845)
- Dombey and Son (Dealings with the Firm of Dombey and Son: Wholesale, Retail and for Exportation; monthly serial, October 1846 to April 1848)
- The Haunted Man (The Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bargain: A Fancy for Christmas-time; 1848)
- David Copperfield (The Personal History, Adventures, Experience and Observation of David Copperfield the Younger of Blunderstone Rookery May 1849 to November 1850)
- Bleak House (March 1852 to September 1853)
- Hard Times (Hard Times: For These Times; weekly serial in Household Words, 1 April 1854, to 12 August 1854)
- Little Dorrit (monthly serial, December 1855 to June 1857)
- A Tale of Two Cities (weekly serial in All the Year Round, 30 April 1859, to 26 November 1859)
- Great Expectations (weekly serial in All the Year Round, 1 December 1860 to 3 August 1861)
- Our Mutual Friend (monthly serial, May 1864 to November 1865)

- The Signal-Man (1866), first published as part of the Mugby Junction collection in the1866 Christmas edition of All the Year Round.
- Edwin Drood (The Mystery of Edwin Drood; monthly serial, April 1870 to September 1870), left unfinished due to Dickens's death.

Conclusion

The works by pre-Victorian writers such as Jane Austen and Walter Scott had perfected both closely-observed social satire and adventure stories. Popular works opened a market for the novel amongst a reading public. The 19th century is often regarded as a high point in British literature as well as in other countries such as France, the United States and Russia. Books, and novels in particular, became ubiquitous, and the "Victorian novelist" created legacy works with continuing appeal. The Victorian era was the great age of the English novel — realistic, thickly plotted, crowded with characters, and long. It was the ideal form to describe contemporary life and to entertain the middle class. Of course, in the literature from this period, we see a duality, or double standard, between the concerns for the individual (the exploitation and corruption both at home and abroad) and national success, It should be clear by now that Dickens's attitude to life in general and industrialisation of the country in particular found expression in his novels where child-heroes predominate, though he depicts in these novels the world of the child. Through the sufferings of children in their world, Dickens shows his critical attitude towards the industries not only because they changed people's old mode of living, but also because they robbed the children of their childhood pleasures as they were made to work at the factories from a very tender age. In the new industrial society, the children worked when they should have been in school and playground. Compassion for deprived children was always dominant in his heart. Dickens understood only too well that the neglect of children would have evil effects upon the society. The employers were indifferent to the condition of the workers and the degradation in the physical life of the latter also badly affected their moral life. Dickens tried to expose these social evils and reestablish the social life of the people based on love and sympathy.

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