

# Current Trends in English Literature

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## Abstract

*Literature reflects society and constitutes a significant artistic endeavor. As time progresses, the nature of literature evolves. The primary objective of the paper aims to elucidate and demonstrate how online communities, electronic books, multimedia, and various forms of communication through social networks have transformed the contemporary creative landscape. Electronic technology and social networking platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp are transforming English literature by providing it with a new direction and context. Contemporary lifestyles have evolved to such an extent that individuals lack sufficient time to engage in the study of literary masterpieces. Books, newspapers, and magazines appear to be diminishing in importance in this digital era. The practices of linear, closed, and solitary reading are concluding due to cybernetic reading. Social media enables immediate access to any literary work for reading and analysis on computer screens with a single mouse click on many blogs. Humans participate in profound and significant discourse on diverse social, religious, political, and literary topics. Social media serves as an excellent venue for discussing and exchanging thoughts on many issues. Some theorists assert that literature and artistic creations are evolving because of online communities; yet, technological advances is also contributing to a decline in the quality of literary works. Currently, the trends of six-word novels, hypertext, flash fiction, and micro fiction are prevalent in English literature. The study indicates a significant transformation in English literature attributable to globalisation and modernization.*

*Keywords: Digital media, electronic technology, cybernetic reading, hypertext, flash fiction, globalization.*

## Introduction

Contemporary trends in English literature, including social media, digital media, blogging, and other forms of communication through networks, have significantly influenced the discipline. English literature is regarded as a creative skill. It is posited that the pervasive effect of social media has diminished the significance of books, newspapers, articles, and magazines. Humanity has embraced digital media tools as the sole method for acquiring increasing amounts of information. Anyone may access the necessary data on a digital screen with a single click of the mouse from high-speed internet-connected devices. The culture of consuming literature is nearly extinguished due to the impact of social media.

The present-day audience prefers rarely engage with lengthy paragraphs and comprehensive novels. The detailed descriptions of the Wessex region in Thomas Hardy's novels do not resonate with contemporary readers. The cybernetic reading of Wessex's beauty has diminished its significance to

contemporary readers. The internet has undoubtedly facilitated a more compact global interchange of ideas. English literature serves as a conduit for the exchange of novel ideas. The nature of literature has undergone significant transformation in contemporary times. Recent developments in fiction writing include the emergence of novelettes, micro fiction, Twitter fiction, blogging, and microblogging. These types of authors utilize the fewest words. O. Henry, Ernest Hemingway, and Anton Chekhov have been recognized as authors of flash fiction. Flash fiction is succinct, engaging, and attention-grabbing. Twenty years ago, individuals would occupy libraries to peruse novels, essays, publications, and research papers in quest of answers for their projects. Currently, few individuals prefer visiting the public library for researching and seeking alternatives. One can get all information on Google within seconds, optimizing his time efficiently.

Historically, every student of English literature possessed an Oxford Dictionary, regarded as the authoritative reference for the English language. However, contemporary individuals do not require an English dictionary. He does comprehensive searches on Word Web. Contemporary readers of English literature download different English dictionary programs on their smartphones, enabling instant access to word meanings.

Today, rather than engaging with traditional study materials such as books, periodicals, newspapers, essays, and research papers, he commenced reading English literature via smartphones, tablets, and personal computers. Cybernetic reading has supplanted the conventional method of simple, closed, and isolated reading in the technological era. Social media, e-books, blogging, tweeting, Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, and other forms of digital media have transformed the literary landscape. E-book technology is a useful medium for accessing even historical authors in digital format. Charles Dickens and William Shakespeare possess Twitter accounts that significantly contribute to fostering readers' interest in English literature. An English literature reader can access the works of William Shakespeare, John Keats, William Wordsworth, Charles Dickens, and Thomas Hardy via digital media. The Swipespeare app is accessible for English literature students, scholars, and professionals to engage with the works of William Shakespeare, so preserving the legacy of ancient writers and their contributions.

This application facilitates knowledge transmission in contemporary society by offering individuals the opportunity to reflect on the creation of prior knowledge. A trend of six-word novels has emerged in English literature. Marcy's – one gun, two shots, three dead; Rebecca James – after her

death, he revived. These exemplify the six-word book. Writing a lengthy, intricate novel is relatively straightforward, while composing and interpreting a six-word novel demands significant imagination from both the writer and the reader. Historically, no one anticipated that the rise of six-word novels in the English language was going to grab the attention of English literature readers in the not too distant future. Blogging platforms offer emerging writers an opportunity to showcase their talent to a global audience and achieve rapid recognition.

A blog is an online platform where individuals express opinions and share experiences across several pages. Blogging, microblogging, and tweeting are presently fashionable as contemporary trends. A study by Tufts University indicates that an individual allocates 22% of their daily time to perusing posts and webpages on the internet. Noor and John assert that social media augments the relationship between writer and audience. Digital media is an economic and consumer-oriented technology that presents information in a distorted manner. The electronic revolution has facilitated reading.

However, literary classicists express discontent with the modern methodologies implemented in English literature. Recent tendencies in English writing, according to them, are undermining the tradition of classical literature and fostering grammatical faults, superficiality, neglect of references, misspellings, and the use of slang. Two decades ago, diary writing was an effective method for preserving memories; now, due to the influence of digital media, this activity has nearly ceased to exist. Individuals submit their albums, scrapbooks, and photographs on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. These can be considered the most secure methods for preserving their recollections. As the past recollection exists, memories will be preserved within it, along with comments from friends.

In the Indian educational system, new digital trends like Google Classroom, Zoom, Google Meet, WebEx, online chat sessions, and engaging language laboratories are being introduced. Some rising tendencies are a consequence of the digital transformation. The Generation Y favors obtaining information via technology that is digital. Recently, non-textual entertainment has thrived via digital media. Every age has witnessed the emergence of new literary styles. Historically, the focus was placed on the author and their background. Prior to COVID-19, in-person interaction was the sole method of communication. During the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual teaching and learning approaches were implemented.

English literature adheres to artistic principles rather than natural laws.

Effective literature is characterized by consistent, apparent, accessible, and cohesive purposes that resonate between readers and the writer's voice. If this is not the case, then such writing is devoid of value, like to conversing with a stranger with whom stable, clear, consistent, and convenient communication does not occur. Contemporary English literature is readily accessible on digital media. It facilitates convenient access to essential information and the exchange of ideas, enabling the analysis of literature.

Nonetheless, despite these deficiencies, it may be asserted that contemporary trends have engendered new types of English literature. Social media platforms disseminate literature through stories that are accessed by countless individuals online. Recent changes also facilitate the merger of cultures among societies. The paradox arises from the disparity among written works and the literature accessible on social media sites.

## Conclusion

The literature on social media is erroneous, inauthentic, irrational, and lacking in quality. Information found in books, publications, and articles is precise, credible, logical, and of high quality. In addition to the literature on social media, the reader must possess supplementary knowledge of books for a comprehensive and accurate interpretation of literature. A robust connection must exist between the reader and the writer. The absence of a robust connection between them results in futile, insignificant, and unproductive literary analysis. Nonetheless, despite the advantages and disadvantages, it is challenging to overlook that internet culture is transcending the limitations of writing. The various platforms for sharing literary works, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, e-books, Book Tube, Book Twitter, email, and Viber, facilitate the exchange of ideas between writers and readers, fostering profound and significant dialogue and enabling two-way communication as opposed to a one-sided speech.

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