

EVOLUTION OF SHORT STORY

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Abstract:

The Research article about short story gives brief information how it evolved. Its beginning, classification, evolution of Technique and application. The first Masters of short stories. The development of short story under new technicians (writers). Research information includes the British, American, French and Russians writers their famous short stories which lead them to fame.

A literary form the nature of which is inferred in the words comprising its name. 1

A story which narrates a series of events, a single incident involving individual in mental or physical activity. 2

It portrays and its success depends on the subject portrayed, like all the other fictions. Unlike the novel with its detailed description and repetition and leisurely characterization it portray with mirror like swiftness and completeness.

For Graphic narrations short story is the most powerful, its subject matter and least restricted in its subject matter its length in longer form cannot sustain interest. 3

Short Story classification is considered one of the most elusive forms. As there's little significance in measuring it. One is always confronted with the question how long (or short) is short? In athletic terms, if we consider novella as middle __ distance story, then the short story falls into the 100/200 meter class. Nowtheless there are very long short stories and very short ones. For instance D.H. Lawerance's *The Fox* (1923) is about 30,000 words Kleist's *Ghost story Das Bettelweib Von Locarno* (1810) is 800 words. Somerset Maugham, in his preface to his *Complete Short Stories* writes that the shortest stories fall somewhere between the two. 4

Beginnings:

Short story from the earliest has served as an allegory, fable, myth, legend, parable, fairytale, anecdote, exemplum, character study and even the ballad. The themes usually were drawn from the supernatural and natural, romantic

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and realistic, grotesque and mundane. Short story has not even portrayed the abnormal but the representative personality, physical action as well as mental process. Not only seizing incident but also casual happenings. Provided translated into concrete all these are included or have a place in the short stories. 5

Evolution of Techniques:

The techniques were known to the earliest story tellers. Traces of their practice is apparent e.g. in the ballad, a short story in the form of a song. The ballad set forth the principles i.e. its objectivity, impressionistic description, directness of portrayal and totality of effect is applied by the greatest modern short story writers'. 6

For the development of the short story it has been necessary that there should occasionally be a turning back to the folk literature and the application of its instinctively effective techniques, as writer usually overlook that a single clear picture is worth a multitude of words. Due to its space limitation short story bound to be a picture. It attract indirectly to senses as it is a picture composed not of lines and colour but of words. When it comes to create the illusion of sense impression, words attains their greatest power. The short story flourishes and develops in an age that expresses its self with simplicity and directness. 7

The First Masters:

In 14th Century 'The Decameron' written by Boccaccio and 'The Canterbury Tales' of Chaucer, shows individual creativeness could breathe life into the conventionalized forms, already the heritage of the short stories. Both these writers depict freely from the natural spontaneous stream of storytelling starting from the human history and flowed from Orient through the Continental and into England. 8

The universal popularity of the short story as essential and respected means of entertainment is evident from the frame work of these two collections. 'The Decameron' stories are told by a group of young ladies and young men who passes the time in idyllic haven that shelters them from the grim plague raging in Florence in 1348. Chaucer's Pilgrims tells their stories to shorten their journey from London to Canterbury where they will pay homage at the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket. There is a spirit conveying a natural love of storytelling in all these stories. When the story became more literary and widen the gap between the storyteller and the listen, it lost its spirit. 9

Boccaccio depict chiefly the Milesian tale which were loosely strung in the 'Golden Ass', the 2nd century A.D novel of Lucius Apnieius, the source or the form is of less importance than Boccaccio brought to the short story. His

stories are invented to his zeal for life than caring for the intellectual regard for technique, all the stories vibrate with vitality and emotions. Often it is a man's will for pleasure __ the desire to attain satisfaction and then to move on to the other objects. Sometimes the force of motivation is intense love or hate .How satisfaction is achieved or denied it is clearly shown through his plots. The basic drives of man are common to all therefore Boccaccio had to make a little effort to probe beneath the surface picture or individualize the characters. The short story shows its survival in spite of its awkwardness of form. The virtue of the consistency and the passion of the creator's nearness to life, his ability to present this fervor directly.

Chaucer unlike Boccaccio was virtuoso. The medieval short stories are round up in a variety of form in Canterbury Tales. For example, The Knight tells a chivalric romance. The Wife of Bath's assist in the tale of Celtic origin __ A Lai. The Prioress relates devotedly 'The Saint Legend'. The Miller accompany by The Reeve, The Shipman, The Fria and The merchant, gives the realistic satires __ Fabliaux targeting the clergy and women. The nun Priest's Tale is a Fable. Short stories illustrating didactic nature are told by the Monk relating merely a list of Tragedies. Whereas the Pardoner relates the tales of greed, the stories are so suggestive and concrete that Chaucer is rightly consider as the master of the short story form as the tales are so concrete and suggestive in its existence.

Essential realism made Boccaccio __ objective where as Chaucer's objective is a conscious story technique. Chaucer emphasis the realism by the statement, in the Prologue, that the reader must allow him to tell the stories in exact words of the Pilgrims. 10

Hiatus, 15th - 18th Centuries:

In the full bloom the Renaissance short stories lost it favor. Under the stylistic devices that swell up such writing as John Lyly's Euphues (1578), the short story could not compete with the long prose Romances and the drama.

The techniques of expression were focused by the writer, not the portrayal so neither Boccaccio's direct realism nor Chaucer's graphic clarity was possible. A deliberate change to a simpler prose style was adopted, due the advancement of Science man's quest for certainty in communication was stimulated. 11

The short story was being developed and established in Britain in second half of the 18th century partly due to the result of the popularity of the oriental tale but more so as result of the popularity of the gothic novel. A great number of horror story, short gothic stories and the literature of terror was in vogue and had been published by 1800 aproximately. In the early 19th century, especially in shape of the ghost story, horror story and stories

which had to do with the supernatural were highly evolved in the form of a short story.

The major contribution to the foundation of the short story was E.T.A. Hoffman (1776-1822) and Heinrich Von Kleist (1777-1811). Hoffmann's first collection of stories *Fantasiestricke* appeared in 1814, followed with several more during 1816 and 1817. All important stories appeared in two volumes in 1810 and 1811 by the Kleist.

Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832), Washington Irving (1783-1832) and Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864) were the other important pioneers. Some excellent ghost stories were written W.Scott. Irving is highly remembered for his adaptations of German Folk tales for example *Rip Van Winkle*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and the stories in 'The Sketch book' (1819_20). Hawthorn's tales/short stories are compiled in *Twice __ Told Tales* (1837), *Mosses from an old Manse* (1846), *The Snow-Image and Other Twice __ Told Tales* (1851). 12

Edgar Allen Poe (1809-49) mistakenly for a long period Poe was considered as the originator of modern short stories. As a practitioner he excelled notably in the detective story e.g. 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue'. He surpassed with a kind of Gothic spine-chiller in *The Pit and The Pendulum*, and collected a form of early science fiction tales e.g. 'The Gold Bug'. Poe was influenced by the German romantics and their gothic stories especially by Hoffmann and also by his fellow Americans Irving, Brockden Brown and Hawthorne. Poe reign in the mid-19th century. The remarkable other stories he wrote 'The Fall of The House of Usher' (1839), 'A Descent into the Maelstrom' (1841), 'The Masque of the Red Death', 'The Mystery of Marie Roget' (1842), and 'The Cask of Amontillado' (1846). 13

Poe in 1842, on reviewing Hawthorne's collection of *Twice Told Tales* (1837; enl. ed; 1842) put forth the definitive review __ in *Graham's Magazine*. The Short Story as an independent form at last established. He set forth certain fundamental principles of short story Technique. According to Poe, the short story:

Must be of such a length as to be read in one sitting.

Must create a single effect.

Must not contain one word that in meaning or tone fails to point to that preconceived effect.

Must convey the impression of finality, so the reader desires neither an opening other than that provided nor a continuation beyond the final sentence. 14

These precepts subordinate plot or theme to affect, for the first time setting up of a criterion other than the pure narration. Not for intellectual power the words are used for sentiments. By the removal of what detracts from the desired effect and the abstraction of what enhances it, Brevity is to be the

skillful reduction. These rules are applicable to any subject matter. The form is defined alone by the presentation. 15

The form of the short story has shown itself to be so flexible and susceptible with a great deal of variety that its possibilities seem almost endless. It may concern with a scene, an episode, an experience, an action, the exhibition of a character or characters. The day's events, a meeting, a conversation, a fantasy.....and what not? 16

Emergence as an Independent Form __ 19th century:

The German Novelle in the 19th century quickly became a developed form which attracted many writers and inspired quite a lot of theory. Beside this narrative form of the short or shorter kind, German folk tales and folklore had a wide interest. Such stories were often about strange and mysterious events and had a supernatural element. Realism Adalbert Stifter, Helen Keller and Theodor Storm, were among the others who wrote more realistic stories later. 17

The realistic short story in Russia became highly developed. Among the first writers Alexander Pushkin utilized the form in 1830's with 'The Tales of Betkin', 'The Queen of Spades' (1834) and 'The Captain's Daughter' (1836). Gogol wrote about everyday things and events and ordinary people. These stories of Gogol were published during the same period. His famous work are 'Nevsky Prospkt' (1835), 'Notes of a Madman' (1835), 'The Portrait' (1835), 'The Nose' (1836), and 'The Overcoat' (1842). 'The Overcoat' had a great influence on tale writers. Turgenev's very famous quote about the story: "we have all come out from under Gogol's 'Overcoat' ". Turgenev produced some notable stories that are 'Asya' (1858), 'First Love' (1860) and 'Torrents Offspring' (1870). A sportsman's Sketches also known as 'A Hunter's Notes' (1847-51). 18

Leo Tolstoy short stories are regarded as the greatest in the Russian Literature; noteworthy are 'Happy Ever After', (1859) 'The Cossacks' (186), 'The Death of Ivan Ilyich' (1884) and 'The Krentza Sonata' (1890). To have a profound and universal influence on the short story was Chekhov; he published several collection; 'Motley Stories' (1886) and 'In the Twilight' (1888). His greatest works are 'A Dreary Story' (1889), 'Ward no. Six' (1892), 'My Life' (1896), 'Lonych, The man in a case, Gooseberries, About Love' (1898) and 'The Lady with the Little Dog' (1899). 19

In France the Short Story was install in 1829-31 with a dozen conte's published by Prosper Me'rimee, Balzac and Gautier. Unquestionably, the most distinguished French writer of short stories in 19th century was Guy de Maupassant, his main collections were 'La Maisson Tellier' (1881), 'Mademoiselle Fifi' (1884), 'Miss Harriet' (1884), 'Toine' (1885), 'Yvette'

(1885). 'Chekhov' and 'Maupassant' are considered the masters of this genre in the late 19th century, and had an infinite influence.

In America, eight writers made a considerable name in the second half of the 19th century in short story form: Herman Melville, Mark Twain, Bret Harte, Ambrose Bierc, O.Henery, Stephen Crane, Jack London and Sherwood Anderson. Melville three most famous Short stories were published in his collection 'The Pizza Tales' (1856), these are 'Bartleby the Scrivener', 'Benito Cereno' and 'The Encantadas'. Mark Twain's best known story is 'The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County', 'Other Sketches' (1867). Another profile writer of short stories and who helped to popularize the western was Francis Bret Harte. One of his best collections is 'The Luck of the Roaring Camp' and 'Other Sketches' (1870). Stephen Crane published two well known collections __ 'The Open Boat and other Tales of Adventure' (1898). Other main collections are 'Cabbages and Kings' (1904), 'The Four Million' (1906), 'The Trimmed Lamp' (1907), and 'The Roads of Destiny' (1909).

Another enthusiastic writer was Jack London one of his best tall stories is 'Two Thousand Dozen'. Sherwood Anderson's wrote 'The Triumph of the Egg' (1921), and 'Horses and Men' (1923). 20

Henry James, another American had been writing very different types of short story for almost twenty five years. Many famous ghost stories, beside 'The Turn of the Screw' (1898), 'A Passionate Pilgrim' (1875), 'Daisy Miller' (1879). 21

Thomas Hardy was Henry James contemporary. He wrote the famous short stories like 'Wessex Tales' (1888), 'A Group of Noble Dames' (1891), 'Life's Little Ironies' (1894), and 'A Changed Man' and 'Other Tales' (1913). 'The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' (1892), the detective story was established by Arthur Conan Doyle in 1890's. 'The Memoir's of Sherlock Holmes' (1894). H.G.Wells came upon the scene with the 'Time Machine' (1895) followed by 'The Island of DR. Moreaur' (1896) and 'The Invisible Man' (1897) and other readable ghost stories, horror stories and science fiction. E.M.Foster first collection 'The Celestial Omnibus' followed by a collection pre-war stories __ 'The Eternal Moment' in 1928. 'The Life to come' was published in 1972 posthumously. In the evolution of the short story Katherine Mansfield was an important figure in 1911. Her stories show the influence of Chekhov. Her published work 'In a German Pension', followed by 'Prelude' (1918), 'The Garden Party' (1922) and 'The Aloe' (1930) beside several other collections. 22

Across the turn of century and during 1890's the regular practitioners of the form were Conrad, R.L.Stevenson, R.Kipling, W.W.Jacobs, George Moore and Saki (pseudonym of H.H. Munro). 23

At the turn of the century, scores of other writers were active in employing the possibilities of the form and producing original work. With installment

of the Pulp Magazine in the early 20th century helped the output of short stories and provided, many professional and occasional writers, an outlet. 24 Short story writers have settled for the realistic or naturalistic manner for the most part. Since 1920 many British writers made significant contributions. D.H.Lawrence wrote a large number of short stories, between 1914 and 1934, and later presented as a collection in 1934, the main works include 'The Prussian Officer', 'Odour of Chrysanthemus', 'The White Stocking', 'England', 'My England', 'The Fox' and 'The Woman Who Rode Away'. Elizabeth Brown, a celebrated practitioner, her first collection 'Encounters' was published 1923. For many years she continued writing short stories and in 1980 published her collected stories. Graham Greens cover some forty years of work on short stories and produced four collections: 'The Basement Room' and 'Other Stories' (1935) 'Nineteen Stories' (1947), 'Twenty One Stories' (1954) and 'May We Borrow Your Husband?' (1967). 25

The short story writers in America, since the 1920's were hardly active. Scott Fitz Gerald, the most famous, published 'Flappers and Philosophers' (1920), 'Tales of Jazz age' (1922) and 'All the Sad Young Men' (1926). Some of the best short stories in existence are written by William Faulkner. His three main collections are 'These 13' (1931), 'Idyll in The Desert' (1931) and 'Go Down', 'Moses', and 'Other Stories' (1942). The most gifted short story writer — Katherine Anne Porter's main collection: 'Flowering Judas' (1930), 'Hacienda' (1934), 'Pale Horse Pale Rider' (1939) and 'The Leaning Tower' (1944). James Thurber wrote and published several collections of short stories and Sketches including 'The Owl in the Attic' and 'Other Perplexities' (1931), 'The Seal in my Bedroom', and 'Other Predicaments' (1932), 'The Middle Aged Man on The Flying Trapeze' (1935), 'Let your Alone' (1937) and 'The Beast in Me and Other Animals' (1948). 26

There were well over a hundred anthologies of short stories in 1994 available in English alone (a fair number of translation into English --- were also included). Throughout the swift development of the short story the technique which Poe adopted has been retained. The sole aim of the short story must be singleness and totality of effect. According to Ruby V. Redinger, (Baldwin _ Wallace College), "The short story confronts the necessity of preserving correctness of portrayal while suggesting more than is portrayed, for or technique it is this conscious search that makes the short story more than mere anecdote or skeletal novel".

References

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- 3) Ibid p.752
- 4) J. A. Cuddon; The Dictionary Of Literary Terms And Literary Theory
p. 815
- 5) Op.cit---p.752
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Only RUB 220.84/month. Evolution of the Short Story Guided Notes. STUDY. Flashcards. In contemporary usage, the term short story most often refers to a work of fiction no longer than 20,000 words at one extreme () and no shorter than 1,000 (). (novella), (flash fiction). The modern short story has three goals: A. more concerned with nuances of _ than with a fast-paced _ character, plot. The modern short story has three goals: B. more apt to _ important facts and psychological truths than to state them directly. imply. The modern short story has three goals: C. more apt to move toward a _ than toward an effect. revelation. The evolution of the short story first began before man could write. To aid himself in constructing and memorizing tales, the early storyteller often relied on stock phrases, fixed rhythms, and rhyme. Consequently, many of the oldest narratives in the world, such as the famous Babylonian tale the Epic of Gilgamesh (c. 2000 BC), are in verse. The romances usually addressed one of three "Matters": the "Matter of Britain" (stories of King Arthur and his knights), the "Matter of France" (the Charlemagne cycle), or the "Matter of Rome" (stories out of antiquity, such as "Pyramus and Thisbe," "Paris and Helen"). Many, but not all, of the romances are too long to be considered short stories. The best short stories can feel like a punch in the gut. Among our list, you won't find a single one alike. We suggest diving into a short story, which can be a transformative experience. It can make you feel like you're floating or like you've been punched in the gut by Mike Tyson. Within a few pages, a story can put words to a feeling you've never been able to express. It renders epiphany and leaves you thinking, much like a great book (only shorter). Quench your thirst for impeccable writing by reading the best short stories of all time. evolution of spoken language "evidence relating to. tongue, ear, and mind" suggests that speech had. begun to develop by about half a million years ago. lution of stories is that Donald establishes so strongly. the plausibility of a drive to, and means to, commu- nicate events, to engage in narrative, even before our. Second, aspects of narrative that fall just short. of i-ction also prepared its way. People recounting. A Nigeria Short Story. African Short Stories. The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck: A Counterintuitive Approach to Living a Good Life. The Yellow House: A Memoir (2019 National Book Award Winner). Shoe Dog: A Memoir by the Creator of Nike. Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race. Download Now. Jump to Page. You are on page 1 of 1. Search inside document. The Little Gingerbread Man. A Nigeria Short Story. Uploaded by. Vivian Nyonee. African Short Stories. Uploaded by. Vivian Nyonee.