**INTRODUCTION**

**FICTION**

Fiction is the form of any narrative or informative work that deals in part or in whole, with information or events that are factual but imaginary invented by the author. It is a major branch of literary work. Most of the fiction that we read is in the form of novels.

**TYPES OF FICTION**

There are three major types of fiction: Realistic, Non-realistic and Semi fiction.

Realistic Fiction: Although untrue could really happen as some events, people and places may even be real – “faction”. In the future, imagined events could physically happen. Jules Verne’s novel *From the Earth to the Moon* which was a product of his rich imagination later proved to be realistic in 1939, when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin set foot on the Moon. They later returned safely to Earth. Realistic fiction makes the reader feel that they are reading something that is actually happening. The description will be in a believable way that makes the reader visualize everything as actual events.

**NON – REALISTIC FICTION**

Here stories cannot happen in real life. They will be supernatural. Alice in Wonderland, Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings belong to this group. Stories coming under this group present geographical details and character description which makes the reader ignore the artifice, suspends his disbelief and goes deep into the author’s imaginary world.

Semi – Fiction. This is fiction implementing a great deal of non-fiction. It may be a fiction

based on true story or a biography fictionalized. Even though, sometimes it may be a true story, there may be significant additions and subtractions from the original story to make it fictional.

**OTHER TYPES OF FICTION**

Science Fiction – this type has science or space theme.

Animal Fiction – here the main characters are animals.

Adventure – here the fiction will have exciting, dangerous plot.

Historical Fiction – This fiction story will be based on a historical event.

Mystery – A problem is solved by following certain clues.

Humorous Fiction – The story is based on some funny situation and the characters are also funny.

Biography – This is a true story of someone’s life.

Autobiography – This is the true story of the author’s life.

Fantasy – is a fiction that can’t be real.

Folktales – They are stories passed down orally by different cultural groups.

Fables – They are similar to folktales but the characters are animals and have a moral lesson in it.

There are eight forms of fiction that can be written. The most popular fiction is novel which is an extended piece of fiction over 40000 words. The next popular one is a short story. Other forms are short story, vignette, prose poem, anti-story and novelette. Traditionally fiction includes not only novels and short stories but also fables, fairy tales, plays, poetry etc. It now includes even films, comic books and video games. Although fiction can be considered as a form of entertainment, it has other uses also. It can be used for instructional purposes, in propaganda and

advertising. Fables express moral lessons also.

**PLOT, CHARACTER AND THE STRUCTURE OF NOVEL**

Fictions are especially novels describing imaginary events. Novels have different kinds of plot form-tragic, comic, satiric or romantic, and to a great extent its characters reveal themselves and their intentions in dialogue. The novel is characterized as the fictional attempt to give the effect of realism, by representing complex characters with mixed motives that are rooted in a social class. It functions in a highly developed social structure. It also mixes up with many other characters. It is like a play with plot and characters. A dramatist must depend on what he can

make us see and hear for ourselves, but a novelist can describe what could never be presented on any stage. He can tell us what is happening, explain it and finally give his own remarks on it. His story may not be symmetrical in exposition, crisis and denouement. At the beginning of the book there will be a crisis. After that before the climax, the book will devote its pages to show how the crisis arose. The novel has no strict frame work. Usually foreign critics have commented that English novels lack a sense of proportion even though it has richness and variety in it. Due to this the author takes full advantage of the freedom he gets. The novelist is eager to represent

life in its fullness and its creative urge may overshadow his sense of artistic unity and balance in narrative, description, characterization and dialogue. But this will matter nothing if the author can keep the reader under his control with his plot, characters and narrative style until the story ends. The author’s personality is a very important factor. Every novel must present a certain view of life and some of the problems of life. It should be a mirror reflecting the author’s outlook of the world with all incidents, characters, passions and motives. It should be our agreement or

disagreement with this view of life that decides our choice in fiction.

The earlier works of English fiction were stories of action. In modern novels the tendency has been to subordinate action to psychology. They try to find the central theme in the mental and spiritual development of the characters rather than in their physical adventures. In the greatest novels plot and characterization are organically connected. There is an argument that characterization is the most important aspect. Even if the reader cannot relate the complex plot, they will never forget the characters. The setting of a novel can be in any part of the world. They can be set in any time past, present or future. Almost every period of English history has contributed a novel. Regarding the settings many authors have their own selection of places. Some have even marked out a region as their own. After reading the ‘Waverley Novels’ of

Walter Scott, one looks for the places mentioned in the novels. Thomas Hardy dominates the south-western England for which he gave the name Wessex. Arnold Bennett selected the Midland region potteries as the background for his novels. These examples will be enough to show how English novelists responded to local influences. One can even classify the novels by their social settings. Through every novel unintentionally the author comes up with his own views of life and problems. Older writers saw nothing wrong in this and it was a regular

practice with them to give a type of running commentary. It was a time when people liked to be lectured rather than entertained. But in modern fiction, readers do not like the authors appearance since it interrupts his story. In fact, the readers like the lesson to be taught revealing through the plot and the characters rather than the author teaching them. The effect of this method will be great. The Short Story is a prose narrative of shorter length than the novel especially one that

has a single them. It is not merely a greatly shortened novel. It has all the usual constituents of a fiction. But the plot, character and setting cannot be treated with the same detail as in a novel. Each has to be reduced to the minimum, but should get the intended effect. The plot should be reduced to the essentials. Characters are used to the indispensables.

Sometimes the writer may construct a story of plot alone with characters and setting restricted to the requirement. At other times character alone may be prominent with plot and setting restricted. The language of short story should contribute to its effect different from a

novel which has passages that sometimes has nothing to do with the plot. This will drag the plot and lead it nowhere. Descriptive passages are only valuable in so far as they contribute towards the total effect. Short stories will long continue to meet the needs of readers and find new plots to suit the taste of the changing world.