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¹M. Sivasankari
Research Scholar,
Department of English,
Marudupandiyar College
of Arts & Science,
Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu,
India

Corresponding author

²V. Govindaraj
Assistant Professor,
Department of English,
Marudupandiyar College
of Arts & Science,
Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu,
India

Research Article

English

BILDUNGSROMAN

¹M. Sivasankari and V. Govindaraj²

ABSTRACT

Bildungsroman is a German word. It comes from the Germans for "formation novel" or "education novel" It is a genre of the novel which focuses on the psychological and moral growth of the protagonist from youth to adulthood changes is thus extremely important. The genre is further characterized a number of formal, topical and thematic features. A bildungsroman is most generally, the story of a single individual's growth and development within the context of a defined social order

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INTRODUCTION

It was first introduced by Karl Morgenstern in the early 19th century and was later popularized by Wilhelm Dilthey in the early 20th century. The popularity of the genre first spread across the European continent and then the entire world. Today, the genre remains one of the most classic stories in films, literature and stage center around the journey of a young person going out into the world and learning harsh lessons on their way to finding maturity.

DEFINITION

Bildungsroman is a special kind of novel that focuses on the psychological and moral growth of its main character from his or her youth to adulthood.

A Bildungsroman is a story of the growing up of a sensitive person who looks for answers to his questions through different experiences. Generally such a novel starts with a

class or a tragedy that disturb the main character emotionally. During the journey, the protagonist gains maturity gradually and with difficulty. Usually, the plot depicts a conflict between the protagonist and the values of society. Finally, he or she accepts those values and they are accepted by the society, ending the dissatisfaction. Such type of novel is also known as a coming - of - age novel.

CHARACTERISTICS:

There are thousands of different Bildungsroman stories out there so, although they thine simian dam, they will not all be aargy the saw..lizres a fist cite crenre's most pominent characteristics.

There is a search for meaning by the protagonist who is usually foolish and inexperienced at the beginning of the narrative. The story typically centers on the maturation process of a single person.

There is some kind of inciting incident that pushes the protagonist into their journey. It's usually something akin to a great emotional loss, like the death of a parent So the hero of the bildungsroman usually an orphan.

The journey will not be easy. In fact, there will be many failures along the way. The hero will be tested and he will fight tooth and nail to survive the unwavering rules and limits of society and a search for meaningful existence within society.

There is usually an epiphany or a flashing moment where the hero finally 'gets it'. This lucidity changes them as a person. They are moving from innocent to experience. They learn what it takes to be a grown up in the real world.

The hero will eventually find his place in society by accepting its values and rules. The hero takes "an apprenticeship to life". The ending isn't necessarily about closure. We often do not know exactly what's going to happen to the hero. We don't know that he was grown as a person from page one and at the very least he is equipped with the maturity and knowledge to have a chance in life and finally from simple rural life to a sophisticated urban one.

FUNCTION OF BILDUNGSROMAN

The bildungsroman novel depicts and criticizes those vices of the society which causes the protagonist to suffer. The novel convey a sense of realism because the protagonist is a common sensitive person who is affected by the loss that they suffered this loss. Ultimately cliaves the course of their life.

In addition, the psychological and moral growth of the protagonist gives us a deep insight into their character and also helps to

understand the conflict in their lives. As a result, we can identify ourselves with the coming of age characters and feel emotionally attached and interested as we see they pass different stages of their lives until they finally change for the good.

Classic Examples

(i) "David Copperfield", a novel by Charles Dickens

This can be termed as a Bildungsroman as it traces the life of David Copperfield from his childhood to maturity. His mother re-marries a man named Edward Murdstone who sends David to work for a wine merchant in London from where he runs away to finally reach his eccentric aunt Betsey Trotwood who agrees to raise him and calls him "Trotts". We see a change in David's "Undisciplined heart" as after Dora's death, he does some soul searching and chooses sensible Agnes as his wife, a woman who had always loved him.

(ii) Charles Dickens's Great Expectations

Through his career, Charles Dickens wrote multiple Bildungsroman novels. Great Expectations published in 1861, is considered to be one of his greatest works both overall and within the Bildungsroman genre due to its intricate narrative and character development. The novel addresses many of the common concerns in Bildungsroman such as finding a place to belong, discovering who one can depend on, defining what really matters in life and coming to peace with one's self. The scholar John H. Hagan points out that Great Expectations divided into three distinct parts: "boyhood", "youth" and "maturity".

(iii) James Joyce's "A Portrait of the Artist as a young Man"

This is a coming-of-age story of a character Stephen Daedalus. The story starts with Stephen in a boarding school at the age of sixteen. One day he goes back to his room. He falls sick, due to the umbrella load of his sins and decides to change himself. He goes to the church for a confession where the cleric is exceptionally kind. Thus Stephen discovers another path in his life as he becomes a cleric later in the novel, Stephen's life takes another turn. He realizes that he cannot waste his life as a cleric. He needs to live in society and be innovative like an artist.

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