

PHILOLOGICAL SCIENCES

ORIGINS, ELEMENTS, AND REAL PROTOTYPES IN THE DETECTIVE GENRE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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Abstract

This article discusses the origins of the detective genre in English literature, as well as its main characteristics. It examines the common elements shared by many detective heroes, the influence of real-life stories and crimes in the creation of fictional works, and the reasons for the genre's popularity today.

Keywords: detective, genre, literature, origins, characteristics.

The detective genre is a popular form of literature that has been captivating readers for over a century. In works of this genre, there is typically a main character, usually a detective or private investigator, who solves a crime or mystery using their intellect and analytical abilities. The popularity of the detective genre can be explained by its combination of suspense, intrigue, and intellectual challenge.

The origins of the detective genre can be traced back to the mid-19th century when Edgar Allan Poe wrote his famous detective story «The Murders in the Rue Morgue». However, it was only in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that this genre gained widespread popularity thanks to the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie, and Dorothy L. Sayers.

One of the key features of the detective genre is the use of deductive reasoning. The main character usually gathers evidence to solve the crime, often with a plot twist or unexpected ending. This intellectual challenge has made the genre particularly popular among readers who enjoy solving puzzles and using their deductive skills.

Another reason for the popularity of the detective genre is its ability to address social issues and themes. Many detective stories explore issues such as class, race, gender, and politics, often criticizing and challenging societal norms and values.

If we talk about early examples of detective literature, we cannot fail to mention the classics of literature. The story «The Murders in the Rue Morgue», published in 1841, is a tale about the character C. Auguste Dupin, a French detective known for his analytical abilities. The story begins with the brutal murder of two women in a room on the fourth floor of a house in Paris. The police are baffled and cannot find any clues that could lead them to the killer. It is then that Dupin intervenes to solve the crime.

Dupin starts by gathering information about the crime scene and interviewing witnesses. In the end, he solves the crime using his intellect and analytical abilities to piece together the clues and uncover the identity of the killer.

Poe's «The Murders in the Rue Morgue» was a significant contribution to the detective fiction genre. It established a standard for the genre by introducing a protagonist who used intellect and analytical abilities to solve a crime. The story was well received by readers

and critics and helped establish the popularity of the genre.

Another early example of a detective novel in English literature is Wilkie Collins' «The Moonstone», published in 1868. The novel tells the story of Sergeant Cuff, a detective who is called in to investigate the theft of a valuable diamond. The story is known for its complex plot and use of multiple narrators to tell the tale.

Arthur Conan Doyle's «Sherlock Holmes» series, beginning with «A Study in Scarlet» in 1887, is perhaps the most well-known example of detective fiction in English literature. The series follows the iconic detective Sherlock Holmes, who uses logic and observation to solve crimes.

Detective stories mainly include a certain set of elements used by the detective heroes. Here are some of them:

- Use of deductive reasoning. One of the key elements of the detective genre is the use of deductive reasoning. Deductive reasoning is the process of drawing logical conclusions based on premises. In detective stories, it is used to solve the mystery and find the criminal. Deductive reasoning plays an important role in the investigation process. It allows the detective to gather all the facts and evidence, draw logical conclusions, and make conclusions about who and why committed the crime. One of the most vivid examples of the use of deductive reasoning is the character of Sherlock Holmes in the works of Arthur Conan Doyle. Holmes always based his conclusions on logical deductions and often proved his correctness with experiments and scientific evidence.

- Focus on solving the mystery. Another key element of the detective genre is the focus on solving the mystery. A detective novel or film often begins with a death or crime, and then the detective, possessing certain skills and tools, begins the investigation. The goal of the investigation is to solve the mystery that lies at the heart of the crime. The focus on solving the mystery allows the reader or viewer to become involved in the investigation process. They become a kind of accomplice in the search for an answer to the puzzle. During the investigation, the detective gradually reveals the details of the crime.

Real detectives and their work have had a significant influence on the development of the detective

genre in literature. Below are some examples of this influence:

- Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes. Arthur Conan Doyle was not only a writer but also a physician who practiced medicine and forensic science. His work inspired him to create the hero of his novels, Sherlock Holmes. Holmes became a symbol of a brilliant detective and a model for many other detective characters that appeared later.

- Edmund Lockhart and the novel «The Killer Artist». Edmund Lockhart was a Scottish detective who investigated a series of murders in Glasgow in the late 19th century. His work became the basis for Boris Akunin's novel «The Killer Artist». In this novel, Akunin used real details of Lockhart's investigation to create a more plausible and fascinating story.

- John Douglas and the series of novels about a detective hero. John Douglas was an American detective who worked for the FBI and investigated serial killers. He wrote several books about his investigations, which became the basis for a series of novels about a detective hero. These novels, such as Thomas Harris's «Red Dragon» and Tom Clancy's «The Hunt for Red October», contain elements of Douglas's real investigations and inspired many other authors to create similar characters.

- The Linda Lake case and the novel «The Daughter of Time». The Linda Lake case was one of the most famous criminal cases in Britain in the 1990s. P.D. James's novel «The Daughter of Time» contains elements of this case, such as the use of DNA analysis to identify the perpetrator. This novel became one of James's best works and inspired other authors to use elements of real criminal cases in their own works.

- The novel «An American Tragedy» and the Chester Gilmore case. Theodore Dreiser's novel «An American Tragedy» is based on the real criminal case of Chester Gilmore, who was convicted of murdering his pregnant girlfriend. Dreiser carefully studied this case to create a more plausible and fascinating novel. «An American Tragedy» became one of the most famous novels about crime and punishment and inspired many authors to write similar works.

It can be said that real detectives and their work had a significant influence on the development of the detective genre in literature. The use of elements from real criminal cases, such as DNA analysis and offender profiling, became a common practice in detective works. The creation of detective heroes like Sherlock Holmes is also a result of inspiration from real detectives and their work. Overall, it can be said that real detectives and their work made the detective genre more engaging and realistic.

In English literature, the detective genre continues to thrive and evolve, and popular modern writers such as Michael Connelly, Tana French, and Louise Penny contribute to its constant popularity. The genre has also expanded beyond traditional novels and now includes graphic novels, TV shows, and movies.

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