



ALAGAPPA GOVERNMENT ARTS COLLEGE

KARAIKUDI, TAMIL NADU, INDIA.

TRENDS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

TEL-2022

In commemoration of Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 1947- 2022

8th April 2022

Edited By

Dr. T.K. Vedharaja



About the Conference

Alagappa Government Arts College celebrates 75th anniversary. In this platinum Jubilee year, in memory of the founder of the college, Alagappa Chettiyar, who is a voracious reader himself, it is decided to conduct a National level conference on a title that could bring in various areas of knowledge. Hence, the title Trends in English Literature became the title of the conference in commemoration of the Platinum Jubilee Celebration (1947- 2022) of the college. The purpose of this conference is to decipher modern developments in English literature to trace the antecedents and the present state of literature to refresh about the recent literary themes, theories and approaches.

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TITLE VERSO

Title	:	TRENDS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE
Editor-in-Chief	:	Dr. T.K. Vedharaja
Event	:	National Conference
Month	:	8th April
Year	:	2022
Pages	:	250
Price	:	350
Book Type	:	A5, Paperback
ISBN Provider	:	Pandian Educational Trust
ISBN	:	978-93-91115-79-1
Printer	:	Jayalakshmi Publications, 140, VPM Towers, TPK Main Road, Palanganatham, Madurai – 3

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Flash Fictions: Creative and Innovative Trends in New Literature

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Abstract

In this modern world as people are busy with their day to day work-life endeavours, it will be quite difficult for them to find time to sit and read a lengthy novel or novella within a stipulated time limit. They may discard their reading habit in their hectic work schedule. Modern citizens would like everything to be handy and portable and use every bit of time in their own comfortable way. This might be the reason that these tech savvy beings, especially those who don't want to give up their reading habit, prefer short fictions or micro fictions rather than lengthy novels or books. They can read these short fictions within a short period of time and can enjoy every nuances of storytelling. Flash fictions were in vogue in the early 20th century, but they came to be prominent recently in the 21st century due to the advancement and development of social media culture. This paper intends to elaborate the innovation and expansion of the genres of flash fictions and micro fictions and to analyse the narrative techniques by exploring some of the popular flash fictions.

Keywords: FlashFiction, Microfiction, Stream fiction, Characteristics, Narrative techniques.

Introduction

Flash fiction is a type of prose narrative, which takes itself the form of a brief, self-contained story. Its word count ranges from 5 to 1000 words on average and can go up to the maximum of 1500 words. It's also known as short shorts, nano-tale or micro story, and the form of the story is unique as it focuses on movement rather than focusing on plot or character development. Each sentence or each word packs back a layer and progresses the story. Look at these six words: *For sale: baby shoes, never worn.* This is a premier example of the fiction's shortest form. In flash fiction, where twist endings and enigmatic last lines are standard practice, just six words can allude to the tragic death of a child. This six words fiction can be attributed to Ernest Hemingway. He was a prolific practitioner of the form. Let's look at an example of his work to see what makes short shorts so engaging.

They shot the six cabinet ministers at half past six in the morning against the wall of a hospital. There were pools of water in the courtyard. There were wet dead leaves on the paving of the courtyard. It rained hard. All the shutters of the hospital were nailed shut. One of the ministers was sick with typhoid. Two soldiers carried him downstairs and out into the rain. They tried to hold him up against the wall but he sat down in a puddle of water. The other five stood very quietly against the wall. Finally the officer told the soldiers it was no good trying to make him stand up. When they fired the first volley he was sitting down in the water with his head on his knees.

"Chapter V", a vignette from Hemingway's collection *In Our Time*, follows the form of great flash fiction. With a straightforward beginning and violent clash that summarizes the