

Question: Write an essay on the rise of English novels in the 18th century.

Ans. The English novels begins to rise in enlarge scales in the 18th century. Numerous novelists and their novels came for public reading. People of the period were interested to read the everyday events in bookish form. Daniel Defoe is the earlier novelist in 18th century. He reflects the daily life events in his novels through fictional characters. Robinson Crusoe is a novel of daily life events. Daniel Defoe played crucial role to develop the novels in the 18th century. This period is often referred to as the “Age of Enlightenment” or the “Age of Reason”. In novel writing, Daniel Defoe contributed more in narrative techniques and themes.

Daniel Defoe is well known for novel writing in the 18th century. His first novel Robinson Crusoe is related to the story of a marooned sailor. This sailor survived in an island for years.

Another novel of Defoe is “Moll Flanders”. This novel says the story of a titular character who fights in reality.

Defoe’s third novel is “Roxana: The Fortunate Mistress”. This novel is about a woman who is abandoned by her husband. The woman gets her job as courtesan to secure financial independence.

After Defoe, we come to Henry Fielding who composed *Tom Jones* and published in 1749. Oliver Goldsmith is another novelist who wrote *The Vicar of Wakefield* (1761-2).

The novel rising in 18th century was helped by several factors. One of such factors was the reading of novels in public. Most of the illiterate people were interested to hear the events of novel and accordingly written the novels. The printing press is another factor to arise novel in the century. It fulfilled the demand of the literate section. More copies were printed and in the market for sale. The market economy is another fact to increase the rising of novel writing.

Then in the town, people were individual in life style. The novelist preferred the individual life in novel writing. The characterisation of the hero was individual. Such personal characterisation was very interesting among the readers.

In conclusion, rising of novel in the 18th century is for the interest of the people. People liked reason and it was found in the pages of novel. Therefore, the novel rose in popularisation.