

## GENRE

= genus (lat)

= sort, type of a text (e.g. poem, thriller, tragedy...)

How fixed are genres?

Should creative writing represent a good „generic text“ or is it considered imitative and formulaic? – differs from period to period and genre to genre

- depends on a conventional agreement rather than a precise definition
- allows prediction and expectation
- reflect audience wishes but also creates them

The concept of genre contributes to the ways texts are produced, received and circulated in society, but its contribution is not fixed.

*Classification on the basis of formal arrangement*

- poetry, drama, fiction (see Aristotle)

*On the basis of theme /subject matter*

(whodunnit, biography, science fiction ...)

*On the basis of technique of composition/ mode of address* (e.g. epistolary novel)

*On the basis attitude /treatment of the theme*

(elegy, satire ...)

*On the basis of function* (e.g. philosophical novel)

*On the basis of literary period* (e.g. realistic novel)

Deflated expectations: exploiting genre through collage and pastiche (irony)

Historical novel

Utopian novel

Fantastic novel

Science fiction novel

Detective novel

Psychological novel

Autobiographical novel

Problem novel

Biographical novel

Epistolary novel

Stream-of-consciousness novel

Anti-novel

Didactic novel

Humorous novel

Romantic novel

Realistic novel

Naturalistic novel

Existential novel

Pastoral novel

Chivalric novel

Gothic novel

Pastoral novel

Experimental novel

Journalistic novel