

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