

Robinson Crusoe

Plot: reading –five minutes

The story is told in the first person singular. In this novel, Defoe created the image of a true empire-builder, a colonizer and a foreign trader, who has the courage and will to face hardships, and who has determination to preserve himself and improve his livelihood by struggling against nature.

Crusoe represents the English bourgeoisie at the earlier stage of its development. He is most practical and exact, always religious and at the same time mindful of his own profit. Robinson's every voyage is connected with some commercial enterprise. He owned a plantation where colored slaves are exploited.

2 Cultural influences

- The book proved so popular that the names of the two main protagonists have entered the language. The term "Robinson Crusoe" is virtually synonymous with the word "castaway" and is often used as a metaphor for being or doing something alone. Robinson Crusoe usually referred to his servant as "my man Friday", from which the term "Man Friday" (or "Girl Friday") originated, referring to a personal assistant, servant, or companion.

Features of Defoe's Novels

- A. The central idea of his novels is that man is good and noble by nature but may succumb to an evil social environment. The writer wants to make it clear that society is the source of various crimes and vices.

- B. Defoe's intention is that the readers should regard his novels as real stories. For that reason, he deliberately avoids all art and fine writing, so that the reader should concentrate only on a series of plausible events. Defoe's novels all take the form of memoirs or pretended historical narratives, everything in them gives the impression of reality.

Jonathan Swift



- Life: Par. 2
- *The tale of a tub*: par.5
- *Gulliver's Travels*: his best know work
par.1/10

Main Plot of *Gulliver's Travels*

The book is divided into four parts, which are as follows

Part I: A Voyage To Lilliput par.12

- The first part is full of references to current politics. Lilliput is the miniature of England. Swift's satire is directed against the English ruling class, the two political parties and the religious disputes.

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