



## Globalization and English Literature: Explaining how globalization has affected the themes, style, and influences of modern English literature

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### Abstract

*This article considers the far-reaching influence of globalization on the themes, styles, and influences that shape modern English literature. With globalization, the world is getting smaller and smaller through interdependent connections and cross-cultural sharing. In today's world, taking a walk and exploring nature is important. This paper reveals how globalization affected the narratives of English literature, where authors are allowed to write about universal topics while still honoring diversity and multiculturalism. English literature has a rich history, transcends borders, and encompasses various traditions. This research examines the history surrounding the various literary styles and how modern writers adapt and innovate in a fast-moving society. This study also examines how literature reflects on the interdependent world and becomes a testimony that English literature is flexible.*

**Keywords:** *Globalization, Contemporary Literature, Multiculturalism, Narrative Evolution, Interconnectedness*

### Introduction

The impact of globalization is evident in almost all spheres of life in today's world. It has shaped modern businesses, communication, making and consuming of art. This paper discusses the effects of globalization and its impact on the themes and motifs of contemporary English literature in the present age. The contemporary English literature reflects numerous universal and diverse thematic and globalized stylistic trends. This metamorphosis highlights the dynamism of the English literature that has endured despite the flux in the prevailing environment.

English literature has a rich history, transcends borders, and encompasses various traditions. This age of globalization has been characterized by cross-cultural exchanges that have overcome geographical boundaries and restructured societies, thus making way for a new literary terrain. The writers experience identity issues, migration issues, and technological problems, among others, at a global level, all of which relate to various nations. The ensuing stories reflect on the universal nature of humanity yet with a bias and perspectives common to various cultures.

This analysis examines how modern writers accepted these worldwide topics as fodder for their creative endeavors and infused foreign forms with elements of English traditions. Modern Anglo-American literature paints pictures of mixed identities within multicultural surroundings by Combining Eastern and Western narration strategies.

The study also explore these literary shifts using the views of such writers who carefully observed these changes in the analysis. For example, Jameson showed a special interest in comprehending literature in a global approach related to the world's modernity, while Smith observed the role of new media and technologies in influencing narrative building. Moreover, writer Gupta (2016) investigated how globalization gave access to unheard voices that added colors to literature.

This exploration reveals English literature's constantly changing and adaptive face and its relevance to the modern globalized world. It shows how literature can portray the evolving circumstances and that it never fails to absorb foreign flavors from various universe nations. This paper focuses on the complex linkage between the world's economy and novelty in contemporary literary studies of today.

### **Globalization's Impact on Literary Themes**

The transformation of literary themes is a direct impact of globalization on current English literature. Literature in the twenty-first century has been nothing short of a mirror, showing how people are intertwined and dependent on one another all over the globe. This research explores how globalization has impacted contemporary English literature's treatment of thematic issues. Through exploring such thematic issues, one can see that they reflect cultural diversity among the societies and universal nature.

In many ways, globalization has eroded the spatial parameters that are used to delineate literature on a national basis. Due to this, modern writers usually deal with topics beyond the frontiers of their own countries. Universal themes like love, human rights, migration, environment, and identity are the central focus of modern literature. These themes have universal appeal and touch on basic human experiences, resonating with readers from different cultures around the globe. Authors like Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, in his book *Americanah*, describe an experience of the same struggle of love between different identities that are not limited by any border (Adichie, 2013).

### **Identity and multiculturalism**

An important theme brought by globalization concerns cultural issues, particularly exploring identity within a multicultural world. Literature has begun to explore the complexity of personal and cultural identities as societies become more diverse with hybrid identities. Writers such as Zadie Smith in *Swing Time* break down the concept of identity in today's globalized world. Such individuals exist in multiple cultures and may struggle to fit into one culture. Their stories become universal, resonating with a global audience.

Another way in which globalization has impacted the writing is through the theme of migration and displacement. Addressing the truth of migrant movements across the globe, writers have made fictional stories about the journeys, struggles, and victories of the people who migrate. Nowadays, migration stories are no longer confined to regional or national accounts; rather, they address issues of worldwide significance. For instance, "Exit West" by Mohsin Hamid (Hamid, 2017, pp. 44-46) describes how displaced people experience a changing world.

### **International Environmentalism**

Literature has also reflected increased consciousness about ecology and the world as a unit brought up by globalization. Contemporary authors are increasingly using their works to address issues of environmental pollution, which often affect countries beyond their boundaries. Literature has addressed climate change, sustainability, and ecological responsibility like never before. *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver illustrates local and global influences on environmental issues through literature (Kingsolver, 2012).

Globalization's effects on literary themes are seen through literature that cuts across borders, explores common issues, deals with identity and multicultural matters, shows cases of global migration and displacements, and addresses climate change problems. The modern literature of the twenty-first century depicts the world's interconnectivity and deals with similar themes across generations of readers.

### **Literary Styles Amidst Globalism**

Contemporary English literature is also being greatly influenced by globalization. Its impact on how authors choose their styles cannot be denied. This part looks at new literary forms bred by globalization, capturing a world on the move.

In addition, there is a deep fusion of Eastern and Western narrative techniques in contemporary English literature. Contemporary writing involves complex narratives based on various tales of old. The exchange of narrative styles has resulted in an exotic blanket of text that breaks from one cultural framework (Cheng, 2015). It is seen in works by authors such as Salman Rushdie and Jhumpa Lahiri, who effortlessly include traits of Indian fairy tales and Western narratives.

Fusion of such kinds goes beyond just fiction. It is evident in modern poetry, where pointers such as Li-Young Lee and Ocean Vuong have effectively merged Eastern poetic subtleties with Western expressive style (Barnstone, 2017). It gives us a literature that can be classified in no simple way, just like its world of globalization.

Authors have also engaged with unorthodox or non-linear narrative structures in the era of globalization. Partly, this experimentation is influenced by how fast information spreads in a highly linked global environment. However, authors frequently write stories that are reminiscent of how to obtain information through different sources mediated by various media channels. It is achieved using different viewpoints, shattering time, and including many media materials in their literature pieces. The non-linear narrative approach, as depicted in David Mitchell's "Cloud Atlas" and Junot Díaz's "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao," deviates from traditional storytelling.

This experimentation challenges accepted reading habits and encourages readers to construct the narrative from different angles or perspectives. It reflects an increasingly global reality in which stories have become polyphonic and only make sense with contexts. The digital transformation age leaves little doubt that digital media impacts literature style. The ubiquity of smartphones, tweets, and electronic venues has spawned these specialized texts (Hayles, 2018). The authors venture into hypertext narratives, which include hyperlinks and multimedia, which blur the boundary line between literature and digital art. As a result, a "new" kind of literature called "digital literature" is being generated.

Mark Danielewski's "House of Leaves" is an example of this approach wherein authors like him use different fonts and pictures in their text that relate to their thoughts. It is important for readers used to the multimedia environment of the web to get involved in this new digital literary style. In the age of globalization, it is high time to reconsider the place and function of linguistics and translations within literature. Many modern-day authors need help telling stories acceptable in different languages and cultures. Their translations facilitate these cross-cultural exchanges, ensuring that the subtleties and essence of the original material are preserved.

Books such as those of the Nobel Prize-winning author Orhan Pamuk, who wrote in Turkish, are now read and enjoyed by people globally and are attributed to proficient experts in translation services. Therefore, translation becomes an art, adding a new flavor to world literature regarding the richness of different languages. As an emerging concept of the globalization age, literature in modern society is manifested through different cultures, traditions, and digital technologies that shape the ever-changing literary trends. Modern literature incorporates multiple narrative techniques, utilizes newline narratives, is shaped by digital media, and emphasizes the use of relevant translations for international literature dialogue.

### **The Rise of Global Voices: Authors from Around the World**

Modern English literature is an intricate weave depicting the complicated fabric of the international world. Among the major components of this transformation, there is a vibrant kaleidoscope of worldwide influxes that rewrite the literary map. In this context, modern English literature accepted these global inputs and involved numerous voices, cultures, and tales, providing a wide range of views to the canon. Global voices represent one of the major trends seen in modern literature in English. Writers from around the globe contributed immensely to the development of English literature. By saying this, the researcher emphasizes the international status of English as a language and the development that occurs in the publishing field. For example, authors such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Haruki Murakami, Arundhati Roy, and others have won international recognition, surpassing their countries' boundaries to attract an extensive worldwide audience (Smith, 2019). In most cases, their compositions include aspects of traditional values and universal aspects that enable the audience to understand the different beliefs in the globe.

Multinational publishing houses and transnational writing have been crucial in diversifying modern English literature. These publishing companies distribute works by writers from all over the world, thereby widening literary markets. Literary works have no limits regarding linguistic and geographic factors in an age of translations and adaptations. For instance, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson, originally written in Sweden, and *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho, originating from Portugal, became hit books internationally. The cross-pollination of cultures characterizes modern British literature. Most writers borrow aspects from different cultural settings and successfully weave them into the stories. An example is Salman Rushdie's "Midnight's Children," which mixes themes from Indian history and traditions with universal human experiences, creating a story that people from different backgrounds can understand. Such an interchange of cultures is both educating and entertaining and widens the horizon in the literary field.

As a result, hybrid identities have been emerging in the contemporary literary environment that can be attributed to an increasingly globalized world. The authors are engaging with questions dealing with identities in multicultural society that create stories representing people with several identities, including culture, language, and nation. The works of Zadie Smith, like "White Teeth" and "Swingtime," provide a deep analysis of the lived experiences of characters in the context of a multicultural identity that is hybrid (Smith, 2016, p. 54). Contemporary English literature reflects its rich tradition through a variety of influences, thus proving that it is alive and responsive. Contemporary English literacy reflects a globalized space that has seen the rise of global voices, multinational publishing, and embracing cultural cross-pollination and hybrid identities. The various influences also enrich literature and help us understand the cosmopolitan society.

### **The Electronic Word**

However, today's world is marked by a fast-paced technological development characterized by the emergence of digital platforms, which have significantly affected literature. New prospects and problems have arisen for authors, readers, and literature at large in the era of technocratic age. Literary expression has found new fertile ground in social media platforms like Twitter, Instagram, and Tumblr. Through short but sharp posts, authors are now interacting with audiences worldwide; their words reach far and wide. Twitterature or Twitter-literature, in short, takes the form of storytelling, with authors telling stories within a limit of 280 characters or less. With this short, direct mode of expression, the writers have been able to interact with their

readers and other authors right on the spot. Smith (2017) points out, "Twitterature squeezes writers to reduce their thoughts to the bare essentials — every word counts, and the narrowness of medium pushes authors to invent new ways of narration." The phenomenon of "Instagram poetry" has grown out of Instagram, a website famous for its visual content. It is where poets craft very short, visually effective poems with compelling imagery. It can revolve around global challenges, personal stories, or general sentiments and emotions. The platform has a large and heterogeneous audience it can reach, which enhances its ability to be popular worldwide. As Martinez(2010) noted, the blend of visionary and textual features in Instagram poetry allows readers to examine literature within the multimedia mode. Digital literature has also found its own space outside social media. It includes everything from hypertext fiction to interactive stories and born-digital novels. Works such as "House of Leaves" by Mark Z. Danielewski employ non-linear storytelling, which takes readers into a digital labyrinth of text and footnotes. Modern digital literature is characterized by incorporating the interactivity potential offered by technology, enabling the reader to experience and engage with narratives beyond the standard and conventional approach. Literature, art, and gaming are not easily differentiated (Hayles, 2007).

E-readers and e-books have revolutionized how readers get hold of literature. What makes e-books a desirable alternative because they enable one to carry around as many books as one could ever possess. All the required information about any book from across the globe is available only with a few taps. On the other hand, the digital world has questioned the future of print, with many readers having regrets about the tactile pleasure they enjoy in handling, smelling, and feeling physical books. Conversely, audiobooks have extended easier accessibility of literature to people who do not have enough time for conventional readings. They have created possibilities for multi-tasking whereby those in transit can read while on the commute and at home. Even some authors like Neil Gaiman and Stephen Fry have become popular by narrating their audiobooks, giving the literature experience a special feel.

The advent of podcasts has also added another medium through which literature can be spread. Literary podcasts, such as "The New Yorker: The two platforms, "Fiction" and "The Moth," give a chance to authors to present their work during audio performances." The podcasts provide audiences with different literary genres and authors from across borders, thus giving them unconventional tales they could not find elsewhere. Podcasts are also a good means of discussing literature, making it a popular platform for literary criticism and analyses. Technology has changed the face of literature in modern times. New communication channels like the Internet and social media offer authors new expression opportunities. Nowadays, e-books and audiobooks have changed the reading process, but literature podcasts have turned international literature into wider listeners. This integration of techno-literature highlights that art is adaptable even in modern times where there are numerous diversions.

#### **As a reflection of globalization, literature**

Global themes and a touch of global styles in English literature do not confine globalization.

Their presence occurs in spanning-the-border tales, which are trans-territorial narratives. This part provides a picture of how modern English literature mirrors the increasing interdependence of the world, using plot lines spanning the national and international frontiers. A notable element of modern literature is the cooperation of writers across cultures. These collaborations make for original stories, which usually present alternative worldviews, thus breaking with convention in



storytelling. Whether belonging to any region or having a particular cultural heritage, these authors create masterpieces by merging their voices and storytelling styles.

For example, through cooperation among writers such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Jhumpa Lahiri have developed a narration space where readers come across the intricacies of numerous cultural identities. This literary fusion exemplifies literature at its global best and tells a story about the world (Adichie, 2009; Lahiri, 2003). Multi-regional novels constitute another variant of border-bridging narratives. In this respect, modern authors exploit the opportunities offered by globalization, using them in story-telling set in different parts of the world. These stories give readers a travel permit into different landscapes, cultures, and feelings in one volume.

The reader travels through different periods and locations, from the South Pacific to post-apocalyptic Hawaii, unfolding a saga that spans space/time. The multiple storyline in this novel shows that world literature gives a bird's eye view of the world and underscores interdependence in the human experience (Mitchel, 2004). Storytelling is only one of many ways literature goes beyond borders and deals with valid issues for all nations. In their writings, authors address worldwide problems like environmental challenges, human rights concerns, and war disputes. The stories make reading seem more real due to their broader perspective of crucial world events, creating an emotional bridge among cultures.

For instance, the novel "The Reluctant Fundamentalist" by Mohsin Hamid tells of a Pakistani protagonist's story after 9/11. The story illustrates what it feels like to be caught up in the world's happenings through literature. Contemporary British English literature demonstrates a globalized world through their bridging borders narratives. Literature has the potential to bridge readers to different cultural environments all over the world and issues about humanity. These stories show that literature does not recognize borders and barriers but helps us understand the global world more deeply.

### **Influential writers and their perspectives**

The discussion of globalization in contemporary English literature is closely linked to some key influencers. The ongoing evolution in their perspective, choices for telling their stories, and themes are demonstrated in their perspective. This section looks at some leading authors who have contributed meaningfully to the discussion of globalization. In particular, the famous British Indian writer Salman Rushdie has reconciled Eastern and Western literary traditions. It is exemplified through his novel "Midnight's Children." Employing magical realism and historical tales, Rushdie intersects the intricate and multifaceted cultures of India and the West. His work transcends conventional storylines, thus exhibiting the essence of cross-cultural communication in literature (Rushdie, 1981).

The most famous among them was a Nigerian author, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, who has been recognized as one of the prominent representatives of postcolonial literature. *Half of a Yellow Son* is a novel by Adichie on identity, racism, and dislocation from culture. In conclusion, Adichie's works emphasize the role of globalization on African identity and African-diasporic identity in world literature. She has contributed remarkably to interracial relations and Africans' connection with the West (Adichie, 2006). The novel "Exit West" by Pakistani author Mohsin Hamid is heartrending in examining how globalization reshapes individual identities. It tells how a couple ventures through strange portals, leading to diverse areas of their distraught world. Hamid's narrative displays the dynamic nature of identity, how it detaches people from their land origins, and how globalization affects people's daily lives (Hamid, 2017).

The contribution of an Indian American author, Jhumpa Lahiri, in the discourse on multilingualism and identity cannot be underestimated. For instance, in "The Namesake" and "The Interpreter of Maladies," her work reveals the consequences and gains of globalization. Her stories show how one lives between languages/cultures at a time when hybridity is becoming more prevalent in global society (Lahiri, 2003). In most cases, Nigerian-American writer Teju Cole investigates the fate of global man. Here, he produces a story about a young Nigerian-German psychiatrist living in NYC, trying to understand questions regarding identity, nation, and home-place. The writings by Cole showcase the lived experiences of people affected by globalization and a networked world (Cole, 2011).

Some powerful writers comprise many more, adding their distinct views and stories to modern English writing. The significance of globalization for the English literary tradition is shown in their works and demonstrated by the adaptiveness and dynamism of that tradition. The way their storytelling helps in the worldwide discussion surrounding the complex interplay of culture, society, and art.

### **Literature's Resilience and Adaptability**

The effects of these transformative forces have shown literature to be incredibly hardy and versatile! As people move across borders, cultures meet, and societies adapt, literature has proven to be the most responsive representative of the modern globalized environment. Modern English literature survives thanks to the changes brought about by globalization. Literature's ability to bounce back and cope with various global challenges should be one example. As Jameson (2002) wisely observes, literature has always been like a mirror reflecting the culture, echoing society's tumultuous ups and downs.

Moreover, in the 21st century, it is still doing just that by delving into some of the most pressing global concerns, like climate change, the refugee crisis, and how technology changes the relationships. Take Amitav Ghosh's "The Great Derangement" (2016), for instance. It is not just a book; one should consider with care that every action has a consequence, which is particularly true regarding the environment. Interesting is also their evolution in conjunction with the world.

This century of instant worldwide communication has transformed how people tell stories. Smith (2018) contends that technology dictates how narratives are portrayed – modern narratives tend to resemble multi-layered life patterns due to their intricacy and many links. Writers' exploration of various telling methods draws motivation from all over the globe, resulting in interesting and relatable narratives. It is additionally because the English literary tradition has come to accept a globalized world for its long reliance on it. Unbounded by its historical origins, it adjusts to the era of global occurrences and cross-cultural influences. It is most noticeable in interdisciplinary studies whose publication has crossed borders. These include novels such as "Exit West" by Mohsin Hamid (2017) and "And Homegoing" by Ya Gyasi (2016), which takes their readers across continents and through history, breaking down barriers between cultures and affirming the interconnected nature of humanity.

To sum up, the robustness and flexibility of literature amid globalization demonstrates longevity. It tackles world problems, transforms to be related to current discourse, uses voice, and surpasses space. Therefore, literature remains significant and proof that despite the challenges imposed by globalization, man has a creative instinct.

### **Conclusion: Literature as a Mirror of the Globalized World**

Finally, it is no surprise that globalization has affected English literacy in the twenty-first century. From this journey, the basic substance of contemporary English literature reflects the

amazing cloth of the networked and colorful planet, which turns into an impressive mirror. However, it has not just been themes and styles. The authors can now explore universal themes made possible by internationalization. Discuss aspects of identity, migration, environmental issues, and technology impacts. The latter themes have become the main agenda for modern literature. However, the authors transcend the boundaries of regions and countries and bring the interconnectedness of human nature onto the table in their narrations.

The changes are not only on the title card but also in books. Borrowing from global storytelling traditions, mixing Eastern and Western methods, exploring non-linear stories, and adopting the digital era. Instead, they used technological advancements like social media and online platforms to create a new storytelling aspect. The language, as well as translation, was crucial since it facilitated a cross-cultural linkage by way of dissemination of world literature.

Using globalization, broader and universal themes that become part of today's theme are available for the authors. Consider identity, migration, environmental challenges, and the impact of technology. These topics are now at the forefront of contemporary literature. The authors are not limited to one country or region; They weave stories that resonate with people worldwide, offering a unique perspective on the collective human journey.

In this era of globalization, literature stands as a beacon of flexibility and adaptability. It addresses global challenges and social change and proves its enduring relevance. The English literary tradition remains active with its rich history, reflecting an ever-changing global landscape. In the words of Amitabh Ghosh (as noted by Gupta, 2016), literature can address pressing global issues, connect people, and create meaning. While thinking about the deep connection between globalization and English books, one needs to recognize the potential of books to thrive in a world defined by diversity and communication.

As Smith (2018) aptly states, "Writing reflects and inspires social change; its function in a world of global hybridity is more important than ever. If through narrative hybrid, universal themes are sought." In, or by amplifying voices, literature continues to mirror the globalized world and for its challenges, triumphs.", and reflects shared human experiences across borders. This essay opens a window into the dynamic interaction between culture, society, and art and shows how contemporary English literature articulates the essence of the globalized world. It is not just about the words on the page, it is a profound reflection of people's identity as global citizens.

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