



جامعة تكريت

كلية التربية للعلوم الإنسانية

قسم اللغة الانكليزية

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عنوان المحاضرة : The characteristics of Victorian Era

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The characteristics of Victorian Era

Introduction

By the mid-nineteenth century, the novel had emerged as a dominant literary form, carving out a central place in English literature. This era was famously represented by novelists such as Charles Dickens, William Makepeace Thackeray, and the Brontë sisters. It saw the genre evolve in both style and substance, blending realism with social criticism and emotional depth. Dickens and Thackeray captured the realism and social manners of the Victorian age, while the Brontës infused their works with romantic intensity and psychological complexity. These developments paved the way for later writers like George Eliot and George Meredith, who further advanced the exploration of individual consciousness and social conditions within the novel form.

1-Realism : Victorian poetry tended to be realistic more than Romantic. Realism involved accurate description and the use of minute details.

2-Doubts and Conflicting Ideas of the Victorian Age: The Victorian Age is known for doubt and mixed beliefs,

shaped by new scientific discoveries. Writers like (Robert Browning) (an optimist) and (Thomas Hardy) (a pessimist) show this range of views. The time has both realistic stories and (PreRaphaelite poetry), which supports the idea of (art for art's sake,) highlighting the complex thoughts of the era.

3-Gender Role : Women were oppressed at that time and men controlled everything.

4- Money:In the Victorian Age, wealth changed due to the (Industrial Revolution). The rise of a cash economy reduced the power of landowners and increased the influence of corporations and the middle class. Wealth shifted from land to goods, a theme seen in many Victorian novels.

5- Poverty and Child Labor: in the Victorian Age Poverty and injustice greatly affected people during the Victorian Age. Many children were forced into labor, like chimney sweeps. In London, out of every 1,000 children born, 500 died before turning two due to poverty and the harsh urban conditions.

6-The Decline of Religion: As the 1900s approached, the decline of religion became a major topic.

Many English people were becoming more educated and reliant on technology, which led to a gradual loss of faith.

7-Appearance of Female Poets: A key achievement of the Victorian Era was the rise of female poets. Before this time, poetry was mainly seen as a male field. Despite that, poets like (Elizabeth Browning),(Christina Rossetti), and the (Brontë sisters) gained fame during this period.

8- Deep Moral Note: Victorian literature was marked by a strong moral message. Writers like (Tennyson), (Browning), and (Ruskin) aimed to share their moral views and philosophies with the public through their prose and poetry.