

The Novel and the New Recipient

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Abstract: This study that has ins center the novel aims to shed light on which types of novel are most liked by the new recipient. As our focus is on younger readers, the research was conducted in schools. Through quantitative research, we will show which types of novels are most liked by young people, whether their preferences change depending on age and whether we have differences in terms of the types of novels that are read and liked the most by youth depending on gender. In this study, which has a wide geographical scope, respectively, extends to the entire territory of the Republic of Kosovo, 3806 young people participated;

Keywords: Gender, type, age, recipient, novel

1. Introduction

1.1. Young reader and novel

During the process of identifying the specifics of the school reader, it was observed that young people, ie the ages of the readers who are at the center of this study, they conceive the novel type as reduced one to the level of thematic classification. Thus, in our survey, in accordance with their knowledge, the possible alternatives were conceived as an answer to the question "which novel do you like the most".

Today's reader, and especially the young reader, often finds it more difficult to cope with today's novel, which is often created with a profitable tendency, a beautiful business. But, in antithesis to the first, that is, to novels written purely for profit, is the other side of the coin, novels that confront the young reader with an infinitely beautiful literature and with forms that also endlessly run away from each other: "Bad writing all comes in one form, while beautiful writing is insanely different, which is why genres make up its authentic divisions. "There are still some dramatic and narrative poets that you can read alive, even though such artists are like scarce water."

Regarding the primary cycle of the pre-university education system in the Republic of Kosovo, it can be seen that we have mainly readers of family, historical and social novels. Meanwhile, philosophical, psychological and forensic novels are hardly read at the same level. However, the attention of this study, due to the age specifics of this reader, is not focused on this category.

2. Theoretical review

With the rapid technological development of today, the novel, as the longest type of prose, is the first that may face abandonment by the young reader. When we add to this the mania of the novel to continually ruin its predecessor poetics, the problem, mainly for young recipients, becomes even deeper.

However, in order to escape the general opinion that today's young people do not read novels, an opinion which relies on a number of factors that may affect not reading the novel, but never on concrete and measurable results, we have researched and through survey we reached tangible results. Thus, we have found that the novel is not only the most popular genre, but also the most read; he is at a complete advantage over other genres. But, despite the fact that it is widely read, we have noticed that the quality of reading is not at the right level, respectively, most of the time it is horizontal reading.

In order to avoid horizontal reading, we have tried to determine what young people like the most, as by adapting their requirements to real artistic, aesthetic values (a function that school programs can best and most easily do). we will be able to save the new reader en masse and at the same time orient him towards vertical reading. Enriching school libraries with novels that are in sync with the demands of the young reader and genuine literary values at the same time, would be a starting point on the journey to creating the model reader.

3. Research methodology

Since the habit of reading and at the same time interpreting it is acquired mainly at a young age, we have decided to focus our attention on the young reader.

Since our study focuses on the novel, from which derive a series of complex issues, implying here the interpretation that follows from the reading process, we have tried that despite the reduced look within this study only in the types of novel that are read more by young people to have a broader initial overview, which will enable us to have a deeper knowledge of the influencing factors. So we focused on determining which novels are most read by young people and the differences between preferences, classifying them based on age and gender.

This has prompted us to use both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Through the survey we have managed to extract concrete data in direct connection with the issue addressed, while through the method of case study and analysis we have created a combination from which we have managed to extract tangible data and at the same time have an overview clear of the current situation in relation to the novel and the new recipient, specifically with the types of novel most read by young people.

3.1 The aim of research

The purpose of this paper is : to show what young readers like to read the most and whether there is a difference between the ages and genders of young people in terms of these preferences.

Research questions for this research are:

1. What novels do young recipients read the most?
2. How big is the difference between readers of different genders and ages

The hypothesis for this research are:

1. The novel remains the most liked genre by young people,
2. Preferences about the types of novels vary depending on the gender.

Research methods that have been used for this research are: survey, analysis and case study method.

Instruments that have been used for this research are questionnaire, focus groups and observation

Participants who participated in this research were young people from age 11 to 18.

3.2 Data analysis

Readers aged 11-14 years and the novel

As for the lower secondary cycle, it can be noticed that the reader of this age does not remain reluctant with the psychological and philosophical novel. Of course, this openness to other types of novels is the result of many processes, not excluding the transition from one life phase to another, intellectual growth and aesthetic evolution that, depending on each other organically lead to a more advanced literary formation.

However, even in this school cycle, the most read novels remain the novels with family and historical themes. In sixth grade this ratio is balanced, in seventh and ninth grade reading the historical novel takes precedence, in eighth grade the dominant is the family novel. It can be noticed that the social novel is the third in the series of novels that young people from sixth to ninth grade prefer to read more, to then continue with the crime novel followed by the psychological one.

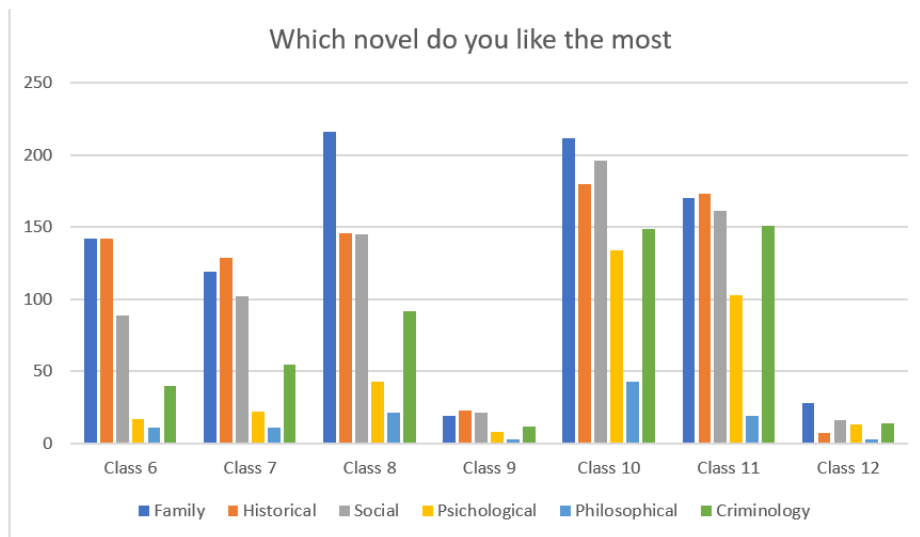
Despite the differentiating grades of the ages, it can be concluded that the common denominator of lower secondary school students is the fact that the philosophical novel is less popular.

Readers aged 15-18 and the novel

Even in terms of upper secondary cycle, it can be seen that there is not a large preferential difference. But here, the differences between the types of novels that are read are more reduced.

We see that in the tenth grade the most popular type of novel continues to be the family one followed by the social and historical novel with an almost negligible difference. At this level of education it is seen that we have a significant increase in the number of readers of the psychological novel. The same tendency with the tenth grades applies to the eleventh and twelfth grades where the most read family, historical and social novels and the least philosophical novels.

Graphic 1 - The most popular types of novel - division by class



1. The most popular types of novel

If we flatten all the differences, whether age or gender, we have this picture:

The most read type novel is family novel, by 1049 students or 28% of respondents; then comes the historical novel read by 931 students or 25% of respondents; in third place is the social novel read by 792 students who make up 21% of respondents; in fourth place is the forensic novel read by 572 students, respectively 14% of respondents; in fifth place is the psychological novel read by 364 students or 9% of respondents and last in the ranking is the philosophical novel with 119 readers or 3% of respondents.

Graphic 2 - The most popular types of novel

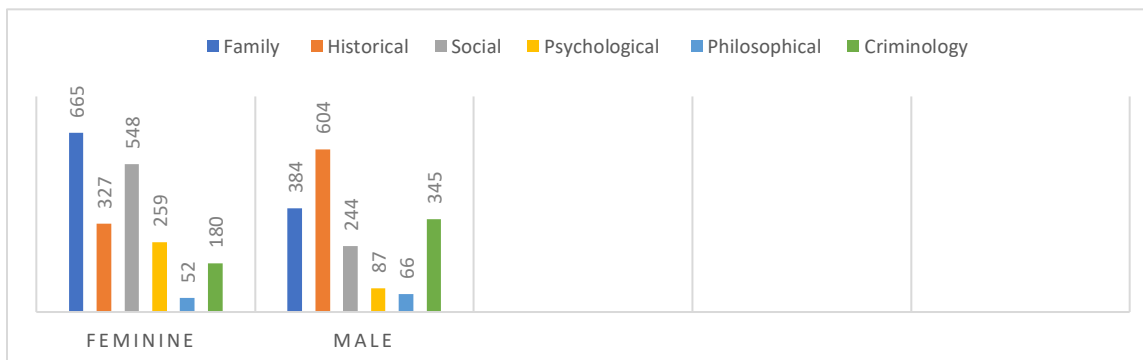


If we refer to a generalized plan, the above statistics would be sufficient for an overview that reflects a measurable accuracy of the type of novel most read by young people in the pre-university education system.

But what stands out and we consider as an insurmountable element through generalizations is the identification of a profound difference between the genders in terms of the types of novels they read. It is interesting that in the vast majority of differences the ratio is preserved (almost) 1 to 2. Concrete case: in females the dominant type of the novel read is the family one (665), while for the same type 384 males are declared, ie approximately halved number of females. For males, the dominant type of novel read, out of the six possible alternatives, is the historical one, for which 604 male students declare, while for the same type 327 females declare, ie approximately half of the number of readers of masculine. Almost the same relationship is preserved with the forensic and social novel. For the first, ie criminological, 180 women have declared 345 men, while for the second, the social novel, 548 women and 244 men.

Thus, if we were to redo the ranking of the most popular types of novels, this time taking into account the preferences by gender, we have:

Graphic 3 - The most popular types of novel – based on gender



Or more specifically:

Females:

1. Family novel (665 students)
2. Social novel (548 students)
3. Historical novel (327 students)
4. Psychological novel (259 students)
5. Forensic novel (180 students)

6. Philosophical novel (52 students)

Males:

1. Historical novel (604 students)
2. Family novel (384 students)
3. Forensic novel (345 students)
4. Social novel (244 students)
5. Psychological novel (87 students)

6. Philosophical novel (66 students)

4. Conclusion

Although in its undefined beginnings and later rejected and crossed, the novel as a genre has managed to survive and for a long time be considered as the dominant type. Even today, at a time when endless questions arise as to whether the novel came to an end or not, it remains the genre that retains primacy in terms of reading by new recipients. This finding comes after a long field observation, after working with focus groups and surveying 3806 young people. What it can be concluded from this study is that novel types by young readers are conceived mainly on the basis of thematic classification. In terms of preferences, it can be seen that family novels are read more, followed by novels with historical and social themes. It is quite interesting that the differences in the types of novels that are read and liked more by young people are very small if we take into account the age of the readers, respectively in almost all levels of education we have more or less the same findings, but they deepen if we consider the gender ratio. In this line, the female gender, which constituted 54% of the respondents, at all levels of education prefers reading family novels, while the male gender, respectively 46% of the respondents, at all levels of education prefer reading more of historical novels.

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