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**A Study of Post Corona Scenario of World Literature Written in  
English with Special Reference to Thematic Concerns**

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## Abstract

Some pivotal events in human history have had a lasting impact on how we view ourselves and how we interact with the world. Disasters like the two world wars, prior pandemic outbreaks of diseases like yellow fever, cholera, and plague, as well as innumerable variants of these ailments, have affected all of humanity. Numerous people have died and suffered as a result of these catastrophes. You may read accounts of these widespread infectious illnesses in the literature written during that time. The potential to communicate the unfathomable sorrow and anguish that man is capable of experiencing via literature has existed from the beginning of time and persists today. Despite assertions that science has advanced, the portrayal of human frailty is accurate. The current pandemic has shown man's inherent weakness in an age where he seeks to rule the cosmos and asserts that his scientific achievements give him the power to suffocate nature. The circumstance has put the person in a position where he must assess his limitations and decide whether or not to return to his fundamentals. The new world order is gradually establishing its tenets and becoming the accepted way of doing things. The epidemic has slowed the unchecked march that man has been making toward materialistic self-gratification. The literature will discover a means to express this new reality and discuss how this new challenge has changed one's life. This research examines the many alternative topics that fiction writers might choose from in the aftermath of the current pandemic.

**Keywords:** Covid, fiction, literature, themes

## Introduction

The whole nature of the inquiry is based on misunderstandings, assumptions, and optimism that is precariously tenuous. A cursory examination of the published works that have emerged due to past natural disasters or those caused by human activity reveals a pattern that encapsulates the universality of the experiences and the specificity of the impacts. The human endeavor to conquer challenges, emerge triumphant, and maintain the fortitude to keep going may define or inform existence in this world.

The potential of people to artistically mold history into forms that are appealing to consumers is demonstrated by the thorough representations of pandemics in literary works, particularly when the situational reality of the stories demands such depictions. The Book of Exodus' description of the Egyptian plague, Sophocles' reference to the devastating plague that motivated him to reify Oedipus' kingly traits, and Thucydides'



account of the Athens plague that killed Emperor Marcus Aurelius are just a few examples of the earliest attempts to capture the key moments in history as well as the human desire to leave an aesthetic imprint on the literature of the period.

Whether the paradigm shift is brought about by pathological conditions like leprosy, influenza, smallpox, malaria, the Black Death, cholera, the Spanish flu, SARS, MERS, and Ebola or by phenomenally significant events like World Wars, apartheid, the Great Depression, 9/11, and mass migrations, historical and political occurrences have influenced the literature of their times, leaving an irreparable mark on the literature created under what are ostensibly “normal” conditions.

The Canterbury Tales by Chaucer, The Decameron by Boccaccio, A Journal of the Plague Year by Defoe, The Plague by Camus, and, more recently, The Year of the Flood by Margaret Atwood (2009) and Dean Koontz’s The Eyes of Darkness (1981), to name a few, are all based on or inspired by epidemic and pandemic outbreaks and their effects. Other examples include The Eyes of Darkness by Dean Koontz (1981). What characteristics do the works that comprise this body of pandemic literature have in common? All of these pieces convey, to varying degrees, that ominous, fatalistic, and frighten-inspiring tone that illustrates and amplifies the effects of loneliness and isolation, the loss of normalcy, the threat to survival, and an emphasis on having the will to survive during the most trying times in history while holding out hope for a better future. Different authors wrote all of these pieces.

However, as time passed, the criteria used to determine the nature of a pandemic also changed. In the early phases of history, people thought that inexplicable happenings, events, or sudden pestilences were caused by the fury of gods and goddesses, magic and superstition, or people’s terrible behavior. People also believed that people’s bad behavior was responsible for the spread of certain diseases. As human people advanced in their knowledge of the sciences and became more rational, these supernatural attributions eventually evolved into works of fiction due to this transition. The emotional and visual expression of repressed impulses has grown into the historical importance of the pandemic.

Humans’ reaction to certain occurring, events, upheavals, and revolutions is what we refer to as literature. After genuine disasters, authors reflect on and memorialize individuals’ and communities’ difficulties. The personal and professional situations of a great number of writers have been significantly impacted as a result of Covid-19. The social and economic turmoil will be reflected in their literature. Their creative output will



be evaluated according to the risk it poses to the country's capacity to remain economically viable. As a result, fictitious autobiographical chronicles set in real-world settings may be elevated as a result of this.

Regarding subject concentration, survival will likely be front and center in the works that come after COVID-19. The idea of survival will undoubtedly make a comeback. Still, this time it will come with a stern warning that if we fail to change our destructive behaviors now, the future of civilization as we know it will be in jeopardy. This is accomplished by contrasting concepts like fear, threat, darkness, and death with more positive concepts such as freedom, peace, and life. Likely, the authors' feeling that there is an immediate need to bridge the socioeconomic divide and improve communal life will be represented in their work. In the not-too-distant future, one may also observe the emergence of conspiracy literature, which employs fictitious descriptions of how globalists might have picked particular persons to infect through little chips placed in their bodies to wipe them out or control them. These conspiracies may pave the way for more substantial geopolitical divides and a general malaise against some key nations. As a direct result of rising levels of competition, the writings of those who promote intolerance, racism, and other forms of bigotry will find their way into creative undertakings.

To comprehend how the natural world has reacted to the most lethal virus found on Earth, the human virus, some authors may go on an introspective journey to compose works of "realization" literature. It has been stated in the past that the human virus vaccination that nature provides is called Covid-19. On a more cheerful note, worries about the environment are expected to grow more apparent and increase in literary works. This is a rallying cry to authors everywhere to produce more writing that addresses global problems such as overpopulation, climate change, economic inequality, poverty, and the need for universal health care to restore our world's health.

In the literature written after Covid-19, science fiction may also decline. Because of the pandemic, many individuals now have significant reservations regarding the efficiency and use of the technology. Have we successfully healed this rather little organism, even if we can travel to the most remote parts of the cosmos? Have we escaped the impending doom that awaits us? Because of this helplessness, concepts of authority will be called into question, and how people view human progress and indomitability will shift. In the literature written after the pandemic, medical professionals such as doctors, nurses, and paramedics will find an awe-



inspiring and inspirational position. This contrasts the pre-pandemic period when soldiers, tycoons, and warriors took center stage.

Some authors may ignore any works regarding the pandemic and embrace a romantic view of life since escapism may give them a tendency to do so. Such a tendency might take romance novels to an even higher level, turning them into powerful stories simply by setting them in epidemic circumstances.

## Exploring Global themes

Despite the supposed technical developments in the medical sciences, much emphasis is placed on humanity's helplessness in light of the Covid outbreak's aftermath. Because of the inherent tension between man and the environment, writing about man's fruitless attempts to assert control over nature affords many opportunities for artistic expression. Even if man invents novel ways to govern nature, the natural world has the potential to adapt and get accustomed to coexisting with human activities. Because of the COVID epidemic, man has reached a turning point when he has realized that he must coexist peacefully with nature and reject the idea of taking it to suit his needs. In other words, man must abandon the notion that he can manipulate nature to his advantage and learn to coexist peacefully. In Mary Shelley's novel *The Last Man*, the tale is narrated by Lionel Verney, who imagines a pandemic causing the extinction of humanity in the 21st century. In Jack London's 1912 novel *The Scarlet Plague*, 2013 is mentioned. This book imagines a dystopian future in which a fever known as the "Red Death" obliterates the majority of the population on Earth. Those who are lucky enough to have survived the breakout are probably under the impression that they were never a part of a civilized civilization in the first place as a result of the effects of the breakout. The rising death toll has cast doubt on man's extravagant claims that he can eventually defeat death and illness in countries with superior medical technology, like the United States. This is because there has been an upsurge in the number of fatalities in the US. Through the stories they produce, fiction writers can examine the ongoing conflict between humans and the environment.

A political novel may be written about a conflict between nations in which they each accuse the other of spreading a virus. This conflict results in a complex political system on the international stage and pushes the world closer to the brink of nuclear war. China has recently been at the center of all the claims, which has resulted in new diplomatic combinations and permutations worldwide.



Some persons have found new opportunities as a result of the sickness. There has been competition among the countries to seize the excellent opportunity to see which one can be the first to create a vaccine against the Covid virus. There is evidence to imply that a rising propensity for opportunism is a problem that needs to be looked into. Given its largest population, India has long been seen as a potential market for the rest of the globe. It could withstand the opposition of some of the most powerful firms working worldwide in the pharmaceutical sector when it started producing its vaccines locally. A few countries compete with one another for economic dominance as efforts by the rest of the globe to stop the spread of the deadly virus are thwarted. Which is more important, money or life? This is a great question to concentrate your efforts on as a topic to work with. Another potentially fascinating area of investigation that may be pursued is the use of viruses to weaken the economic stability of rival countries.

There has been a resurgence in people's enthusiasm to donate to charity organizations worldwide during the Covid era. Several governments have gone above and above to provide vaccines to other needy countries. These are a select few nations. The term "vaccine diplomacy," coined to characterize this strategy, is widely used in the media to indicate how countries hide their true objectives beneath acts of charity. A theme that highlights sincere altruism or deft political maneuvering will surely be a hit.

The ability of the infection to rapidly mutate has presented scientists with a significant problem when it comes to developing a particular antidote for the virus. A science fiction story involving a battle between an intelligent virus and a team of researchers looking for a vaccine effective against all of the virus's variations is now conceivable. It now becomes possible to tell a tale about this struggle.

## Exploring Micro Themes

The immediate effects of the pandemic on people and society may provide fiction writers with a wealth of subject matter. Every catastrophe causes a crisis of faith, and as a result, hope progressively loses its meaning. In the 2001 novel *The Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague* by Geraldine Brooks, a remote community's inhabitants lose their faith and innate desire to survive when the bubonic plague strikes. When even science could not give during the most recent Covid pandemic incident, a similar sense of disappointment was evident. Some people doubt the value of immunization and are concerned about potential long-term negative health effects because they lack faith in the scientific community. That conjures up the idea of a dystopian fiction set in a society where scientific progress has been abandoned.



An unexpected halt in global economic activity resulted in significant employment losses, hampered the state of the world economy. The restrictive measures put in place by the government in reaction to the COVID-19 outbreak have substantially influenced economies worldwide and boosted the unemployment rate. Both white-collar and blue-collar employees were affected. Mass migration, during which many of these people perished while seeking to return home, is a subject that lends itself nicely to treatment in fiction. Even in major cities renowned for having an EMI culture that enables a decent existence, people who cannot meet the EMI deadlines commit themselves. More than 2800 suicides attributed to unemployment are reported in India. This specific unemployment rate is remarkable since there was no clear reason for it before the outbreak, making it impossible for many individuals to forecast it. The plight of individuals who have lost their work as a result of this epidemic of unemployment may be depicted in a sizable amount of literature.

Despite the general decline in optimism and pessimism, there has just been a notable instance of selfless conduct. Many medical experts and support staff worldwide labored hard to eliminate the disease. Numerous lives have been lost as a result of this battle. The literature produced on Covid's aftermath must portray the helplessness and emotional suffering that physicians feel due to witnessing a great quantity of death, crying families, and their struggle to acquire air. These unsung heroes and their selfless commitment to helping others might be the subject of a motivating book. There may be a crisis of faith in science and God, but there is no sign that people will soon lose faith in humanity.

There are countless instances of humanity at its worst after illustrations of humankind at its best. Jack London wrote about how certain rioters took advantage of the outbreak of the plague to commit murder and plunder in his book "The Scarlet Plague" (1912). He writes, "Down in our labor ghettos and slums, we had created a race of barbarians, of savages; and now, in the moment of our catastrophe, they turned upon us like the terrible creatures they were, and they slaughtered us." And in the process, they brought destruction upon themselves. 105 (London). While many people see the pandemic as an opportunity to make money, others see it as a chance to help others. Those who engage in the illicit market and counterfeiters won't pass up the chance to profit from the outbreak. In a few cases, life-saving drugs were sold at exorbitant prices, and there was an oversupply of fake drugs on the market. Topics like this could linger on the evil traits of people through the means of gloomy literature during the Covid pandemic.



A direct consequence of the epidemic has been the orphanage of millions of children. According to a poll, over 1562,000 children have lost at least one parent or grandparent. This should be concerning since the loss of a parent or grandparent can seriously affect the children's social, physical, and mental growth. Fiction writers may likely find it intriguing to focus on these kids' situations and the challenges their setting will present for them.

Another thing they have in common is that the present generation likewise through the trauma of being isolated during the outbreak. The governments imposed unprecedented levels of quarantine to stop the epidemic's spread. The psychological effects of this lockdown have been felt much more so than their economic equivalents, which have already been discussed. People who had never healthily experienced loneliness during lockdown plunged into despair due to being alone, which is awful for one's mental health. Long-term isolation can contribute to mental health problems, including stress, depression, and anxiety. As a result, a psychological or sociological book about the behavioral changes brought on by loneliness would be intriguing to read. Some potential directions for investigation include the ones listed below:

- ❖ The main character is a workaholic who is housebound and unemployed; when they suddenly lose patience, the peace in the household is threatened.
- ❖ A social protagonist who engages with their family infrequently feels limited by them and struggles to get along with them.
- ❖ A protagonist who struggles with loneliness often turns to alcohol to relieve their loneliness.
- ❖ As the protagonist spends more time with family during the lockdown, they appreciate how lovely they are.
- ❖ Both the protagonist and their family have problems due to the protagonist's excessive usage of social networking sites.
- ❖ The protagonist has various psychological issues because they cannot meet the people who have provided them with psychological assistance.

Loneliness may be addressed in several ways when writing fiction in the post-Covid age.





## The rise of online culture:

The terrible impacts of the Covid epidemic have been most severely felt in the school sector. Because of the prolonged closure of educational institutions, the system is now forced to do research and development on online education, ironically hailed as the future of education. Nobody has ever imagined what it would be like to sit in a class without any interaction among the pupils. In front of computers, teachers give robotic lectures while completely uninterested and unaware of the students' attentiveness. Since the classroom no longer needs to uphold its standard of discipline, classes are now held in the more informal environment of drawing rooms. As a result, there will be a certain set of children who have not been taught the need for discipline and personal cleanliness. These incidents can provide enough material for fiction writers to write about. The methods listed below can be used to research this subject.

The effects of social isolation on kids; an aspiring teacher with problems adjusting to the unique online teaching environment; an eager instructor. • Students' social well-being is a concern • A student who needs extra help cannot get the attention of his teacher through online communication.

Refraining from making direct eye contact with others out of worry about the outbreak

Similarly, the rising acceptance of working from home has ushered in a new work culture in which the distinction between the home and the office is ever fuzzier. There should be a place for this literary movement in the canon of post-Covid literature.

The lengthy cohabitation during the lockdown had the most impact on the dynamics of already-existing partnerships. The harmony of the marriage has been seriously damaged due to Covid. The epidemic is leading to an increase in the number of partnerships that have ended. The stress level is rising, causing behavioral changes that are causing divisions. Being confined to one spot has led to a greater focus on personal information and household circumstances, previously underappreciated facets of pre-Covid existence. Depictions of these complex married connections will likely find a home in post-Covid literature.

Not only do pandemics kill individuals, but they also attempt to steal their souls, giving humankind its vitality. The ability of humanity to recover from the impacts of the disease and resume normal life has frequently been commended. This resilience is a fantastic subject to explore via literature. Arundhati Roy claims that "pandemics have compelled humans to sever ties with the past and reimagine their world



throughout history.” Similar to the others, this one is also. It serves as a doorway, a conduit leading from this world to the next. (Roy, 3)

## Conclusion

Every human tragedy leaf behind a mark that cannot be removed. One historical catastrophe that rocked humanity to its core was the Covid-19 outbreak. While similar spells have existed in the past, Covid is a completely fresh experience for the current generation. Due to the possibility that it was manufactured, this pandemic differs from others before it and poses a higher hazard. Instead of a virus, the threat we confront is a virus brought on by human greed. It is closely connected to human values, many of which are vanishing and making it more difficult to sustain a civilized society. For a very long period, the effects will be felt.

This epidemic affects a wide range of experts, including psychologists, sociologists, economists, behavioral scientists, novelists, and medical specialists. As mentioned in the essay, the pandemic has raised various issues that a fiction writer may consider while writing his story. Thanks to Covid-19, the authors have a broad conceptual range that ranges from the global to the personal, social to domestic.



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