

Probing into the Craft of Writing

By

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Abstract

A writer introspects while delving deep into her craft. She focuses on a few fundamental questions – What to write? Why do I write? Is writing a passion or a profession? How Attention Economy affect the craft?

Keywords

genre, poetry, narratives, creative writing, critical writing, motivation, attention economy

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A writer while pondering over her craft of writing encounters varied questions. The fundamental issue that arises in her mind caters to the interest of readers and publishers. What to write – Poetry or Narratives? Fiction and Non-Fiction have different levels of content, expression, and style. One genre appears more realistic than another – What genre popularly mirrors society? What genre attracts the readers? Do the readers prefer narratives to poetry? And, do the writers pen more poems than prose? Does poetry act as a trigger to our life events and set a creative space for our finer shades of emotions?

The graver query that society asks the writers and the writers ask themselves is ‘Why do you/ I write?’ Most writers do not have a clear idea of why they write. Some say that it is the madness of the art that is expressed in myriad ways by the writers. For instance, a writer writes the way how humans live, the struggle of the downtrodden, issues grappling with destiny, reformation, and many other things. Poets are free throughout the world and they show a departure from the routine stuff while they focus on wider perspectives.

Some writers introspect writing is a dream within a dream. We write what is inside us, mingling with reality. Some writers say we write to know the world better. Writing is understood as a tranquillity and a therapeutic sphere.

Writers want to give invaluable things to society which includes cultural viewpoints among many other things; and shun evil from our myths. The reason is it is important to examine life as it is. The times have now changed; hence the circumstances are different. Some writers believe that instead of talking about Sita's "*agnipraksha*", we can focus on how Sita brought her sons as brave warriors.

Therefore, writers talk about the human world and the developing world, the dark nights and the brilliant dawns.

Some writers say "I write so that I stay a good human". With many of us, we start writing about ourselves (as in a diary). With time, we develop objectivity in our reflections on our lives. Thus, we tend to talk about society, talk with society, and bring changes in society. We writers show sensitivity towards society and interact with society.

Some writers believe that what we write, cannot be unerasable. If we believe in one word, we cannot explore truth. Truth is present in various hues. This brings us to the idea that unless we invent, we cannot write. So there lies the fluidity of truth. A poem has different interpretations by different readers. This is creativity.

Writers most often rationalize "I discover myself while writing and also reading."

Writers seek salvation. They write from an irreversible past, embrace sufferings, and feel more real.

We delve deeper into the craft of writing and ponder over a more pragmatic subject: Is writing a passion or a profession? In other words, we deal with both Creative writing and Critical writing. The synergy of passion and profession makes it magical. But then sometimes what the writer wants is not what the readers want. The value of writing cannot

be ascertained. Thus, at times, a marriage between commercial and literary writing might turn out to be disastrous. And yet, I believe they fall into two different categories.

Some writers believe that writing is neither a passion nor a profession.

According to some writers, poetry sprung from empathy; or, writing is an aspiration for peace and to stay human. Some say a moment of pain or angst creates poetry.

Writing has to begin from a point of passion or pain, otherwise there is nothing creative about it. Writing should be fuelled by passion, and then gradually play up with the readers' emotions. Thus, writing can be personal fulfillment and also social transformation.

As a profession, the financial viability for writers contains script writing, content writing, and journalism. Poetry books are printed in bulk. Poetry may be defined as an expression of passion. But poets hardly make a fortune out of their creations. They are revered and respected.

Some writers define passion as a psychological construct or a state of flow. A study states a few standards for measuring the motivation or zeal of a writer and posits the following queries:

- a) While writing, do we realize the sense of time and the sense of self-consciousness?
- b) Does the writing activity challenge us and do we have enough skills to meet it? [If the challenge and skill meet then, it becomes fun.]
- c) Do we have extrinsic or intrinsic motivation?

We call ourselves a writer when writing does not happen very easily and we spend more time on it. It dissolves time. It is a bliss.

Finally, a performer works for the audience just as a writer for a reader. The irony of the situation is that it is easier to write than to read. Do all the students of English Literature have developed the habit of reading? Translation requires deep reading of manuscripts to

understand the nuances of texts. Translation involves a writer's aesthetics, skill, sensibility, and passion.

The attention economy has a great impact on the literary landscape. Social media is filled with content on varied areas of interest - Writers who give a cursory glance at their lives truthfully find readers who can relate to their own.

The Craft of Writing is an evolutionary process that shows the transition with society, culture, and the advancement of Science and Technology. A Writer evolves and experiments with genres and styles to stay connected with the readers and leave an indelible contribution to the domain of literature. Essays are non-fiction writings. "Dream Children" is a formally unique essay but Charles Lamb blurs genre lines between essay and fiction. The story "Midnight's Children" by Salman Rushdie has a historical setting with a historical grounding within the constraints of which a fictional narrative is constructed. We label the genre as 'Historical fiction'. Alex Haley says in his 'Acknowledgements' of his novel "Roots: The Saga of an American family"

"The griots (West African historian, storyteller, praise singer, poet, or musician.) symbolize how all human ancestry goes back to someplace, and some time, where there was no writing. Then, the memories in the mouths of ancient elders were the only way that early histories of mankind got passed along...for all of us today, to know who we are", This nonfiction genre has been gaining ground, giving a wide spectrum of space and variety. Creative Non-Fiction is known to be a sub-genre of Non-Fiction.

Scripts made the history of human evolution eternal.

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About the Author

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