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THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER AND SECONDARY SPECIAL EDUCATION  
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THE UZBEK STATE UNIVERSITY OF WORLD LANGUAGES  
ENGLISH FACULTY I

# COURSE PAPER

The theme: Development of detective genre. Agatha Christi- her life  
and work

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## CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CHAPTER I Development of detective genre.</b>	
1.1. Establishment of the genre .....	4
1.2. Golden Age of detective novels.....	6
1.3. A. Christie's life and career .....	7
<b>CHAPTER II Literary research on the Author's works</b>	
2.1 Common overview on her literary works.....	15
2.2 "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" is as the masterpiece of her novels .....	24
<b>CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>	<b>34</b>

## Introduction

It's evident that, today knowing a foreign language is one the most crucial means of entering into relation with society. As comprehending that, plenty of efforts are being made by our government on the purpose of enhancing teaching and learning the English language in our country. For instance, "In order to increase teaching standards in distant rural areas, a special decree was adopted which envisages 30% salary increase for foreign language teachers in rural areas, 15% increase for those in other areas."<sup>1</sup>

Besides, in order to find his/her own role and the appropriate way in today's society one has to know a foreign language very well, particularly the English language. For this very purpose i.e. to learn English we can use several ways and one efficient of them is Literature which enables us to learn not only the language, but at the same time the culture of the nation as well.

So, it is worth to emphasize that this research helps us strengthen our knowledge on literature and enrich our knowledge on the language.

**The theme** of the given qualification paper is "**Development of detective genre. Agatha Christie- her life and work.**"

**The subject** of the course paper is devoted to the study of understanding detective genre with the examples of A. Christie's works.

**The aim** of this research paper is to define the importance of doing research on literature and literary works with the example of A. Christie's novel "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd"

**The object** of the course paper is to give insight into the life and literary success of Agatha Christie.

**Theoretical value** of this qualification paper is that theoretical position of this paper can be used in delivering lectures on literature and English lessons.

**Practical value** of this qualification paper is that the practical results could be used in teaching processing in elaboration lectures and during practical lectures

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<sup>1</sup> *President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov. "On measures to further improve foreign language learning system". On December 10.2012*

from literature, during English lessons. Our course paper provides the information that can build and improve the skills of all writers - from those with little experience to those who write with ease.

**The topicality** of the work is that, the Detective genre appeared at the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> century and got its highest point at the middle of 20<sup>th</sup> century with the contribution of great detective writers such as **Arthur Conan Doyle, A. Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, Ngaio Marsh and Margery Allingham.**

**The tasks** of the research are the following according to the general aim:

1. To make students aware of importance the literary works at that time.
2. To have a clear insight of importance of teaching literary works;
3. To study the peculiar aspects of the work in the world literature;

**The structure** of the course paper as follows: Introduction, Two chapters, Conclusion and Biography.

**The Introduction** opens through giving information about development of the English language in Uzbekistan and some points from the President of Uzbekistan. **The First chapter** deals with the general information about Detective genre and A. Christie's life.

**The Second chapter** is dedicated to study of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" and author's other novels.

It should be said that this course paper gives precious information on the life of A. Christie, and it depicts her as "**The Queen of Crime**". The significance of the research is determined by the necessity of detailed and comprehensive analysis of peculiarities of literature which might be attractive to any reader. We have intended to make a little contribution to the development of the process that is, development of learning English literature as well as teaching English literature. We hope that we can achieve what we have intended and the material that we worked on can serve as an important source for not only the students who are doing an academic research on learning literature but also who are simply interested in literature.

## CHAPTER I Development of detective genre.

### I.1 Establishment of the genre

Detective fiction in the English-speaking world is considered to have begun in 1841 with the publication of Poe's "**The Murders in the Rue Morgue**" itself, featuring **the first fictional detective work**. Poe followed with further Auguste Dupin tales: "The Mystery of Marie Rogêt" in 1843 and "The Purloined Letter" in 1845. Poe referred to his stories as "tales of ratiocination". In stories such as these, the primary concern of the plot is ascertaining truth, and the usual means of obtaining the truth is a complex and mysterious process combining intuitive logic, astute observation, and perspicacious inference. "Early detective stories tended to follow an investigating protagonist from the first scene to the last, making the unraveling a practical rather than emotional matter. "The Mystery of Marie Rogêt" is particularly interesting because it is a barely fictionalized account based on Poe's theory of what happened to the real-life Mary Cecilia Rogers.

**Émile Gaboriau** was a pioneer of the detective fiction genre in France. In **Monsieur Lecoq** (1868), the title character is adept at disguise, a key characteristic of detectives. Gaboriau's writing is also considered to contain the first example of a detective minutely examining a crime scene for clues.

Another early example of a whodunit is a subplot in the novel "Bleak House" (1853) by **Charles Dickens**. The conniving lawyer Tulkinghorn is killed in his office late one night, and the crime is investigated by Inspector Bucket of the Metropolitan police force. Dickens also left a novel unfinished at his death, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood."

Dickens's protégé, **Wilkie Collins** (1824–1889)—sometimes referred to as the "grandfather of English detective fiction"—is credited with the first great mystery novel, "The Woman in White". **T. S. Eliot** called Collins's novel "The Moonstone" (1868) "the first, the longest, and the best of modern English detective novels... in a genre invented by Collins and not by Poe", and **Dorothy L. Sayers** called it "probably the very finest detective story ever written".

**Arthur Conan Doyle.** In 1887, **Arthur Conan Doyle** created **Sherlock Holmes**, arguably the most famous of all fictional detectives. Although Sherlock Holmes is not the original fiction detective (he was influenced by Poe's "Dupin" and Gaboriau's "Lecoq"), his name has become a byword for the part. Conan Doyle stated that the character of Holmes was inspired by **Dr. Joseph Bell**, for whom Doyle had worked as a clerk at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Holmes is famous for his intellectual prowess and is renowned for his skillful use of astute observation, deductive reasoning, and forensic skills to solve difficult cases. Conan Doyle wrote four novels and fifty-six short stories featuring Holmes, and all but four stories are narrated by Holmes's friend, assistant, and biographer, **Dr. John H. Watson.**

Although "The Moonstone" is usually seen as the first detective novel, there are other contenders for the honor. A number of critics suggest that the lesser known "Notting Hill Mystery" (1862-63), written by the pseudonymous **Charles Felix** (later identified as Charles Warren Adams), preceded it by a number of years and first used techniques that would come to define the genre. Literary critics Chris Willis and Kate Watson consider **Mary Elizabeth Braddon's** first book, the even earlier "The Trail of the Serpent" (1861), the first British detective novel. The novel "features an unusual and innovative detective figure, Mr. Peters, who is lower class and mute, and who is initially dismissed both by the text and its characters."<sup>2</sup> Braddon's later and better-remembered work, "Aurora Floyd"<sup>3</sup> also features a compelling detective in the person of Detective Grimstone of Scotland Yard. In short, it is difficult to establish who was the first to write the English-language detective novel, as various authors were exploring the theme simultaneously.

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<sup>2</sup>"Women Writing Crime Fiction, 1860-1880", *Mary Elizabeth Braddon*, page 45.

<sup>3</sup>printed in 1863 novel form, but serialized in 1862-63

she became the President of the Detection Club. In the 1971 New Year Honours, she was promoted Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE), three years after her husband had been knighted for his archaeological work in 1968. They were one of the few married couples where both partners were honoured in their own right. From 1968, owing to her husband's knighthood, Christie could also be styled Lady Mallowan.

From 1971 to 1974, Christie's health began to fail, although she continued to write. Recently, using experimental tools of textual analysis, Canadian researchers have suggested that Christie may have begun to suffer from Alzheimer's disease or other dementia. Dame Agatha Christie died on 12 January 1976 at age 85 from natural causes at her home in Winterbrook, Chelsey. She is buried in the nearby churchyard of St Mary's, Cholsey. She was survived by her only child, Rosalind Margaret Hicks.

## CHAPTER II Literary research on the Author's works

### 2.1 Common overview on her Literary works

Christie wrote her first short story, "The House of Beauty"<sup>7</sup>, while recovering in bed from an undisclosed illness. This was about 6,000 words on the topic of "madness and dreams", a subject of fascination for her. Biographer Janet Morgan commented that, despite "infelicities of style", the story was nevertheless "compelling". Other shorts followed, most of them illustrating her interest in spiritualism and the paranormal. These included "The Call of Wings" and "The Little Lonely God". Various magazines rejected all her early submissions, made under pseudonyms, although some were revised and published later, often with new titles.

Christie then set her first novel, "Snow Upon the Desert", in Cairo, and drew from her recent experiences in that city, written under the pseudonym Monosyllaba. She was perturbed when various publishers all declined. Clara suggested that her daughter ask for advice from a family friend and neighbour, writer Eden Philpotts, who obliged her enquiry, encouraged her writing, and sent her an introduction to his own literary agent, Hughes Massie, who rejected "Snow Upon the Desert", and suggested a second novel.

Christie's second novel, "The Secret Adversary" (1922), featured a new detective couple Tommy and Tuppence, again published by The Bodley Head. It earned her £50. A third novel again featured Poirot, "Murder on the Links" (1923), as did short stories commissioned by Bruce Ingram, editor of "The Sketch" magazine. In order to tour the world promoting the British Empire Exhibition, the couple left their daughter Rosalind with Agatha's mother and sister. They travelled to South Africa,

Australia, New Zealand, and Hawaii. They learned to surf prone in South Africa; then, in Waikiki, they were among the first Britons to surf standing up.

She also wrote six romances under the name **Mary Westmacott**, but she is best known for the 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections that she wrote

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<sup>7</sup>an early version of her later-published story "The House of Dreams"

## Portrayals of Christie

Christie has been portrayed on a number of occasions in film and television. Several biographical programmes have been made, such as BBC television's *Agatha Christie: A Life in Pictures* (2004), in which she is portrayed by Olivia Williams, Anna Massey, and Bonnie Wright; and Season 3, Episode 1 of *ITV Perspectives: "The Mystery of Agatha Christie"* (2013), hosted by David Suchet, who plays Hercule Poirot on television. Christie has also been portrayed fictionally. Some of these portrayals have explored and offered accounts of Christie's disappearance in 1926, including the film *"Agatha"* (1979) (with Vanessa Redgrave, in which she sneaks away to plan revenge against her husband), and the "Doctor Who" episode *"The Unicorn and the Wasp"* (17 May 2008), with Fenella Woolgar, in which her disappearance is the result of her suffering a temporary breakdown owing to a brief psychic link being formed between her and an alien. Others, such as Hungarian film, *Kojak Budapest* (1980; not to be confused with the 1986 comedy by the same name) create their own scenarios involving Christie's criminal skill. In the TV play, *Murder by the Book* (1986), Christie herself (Dame Peggy Ashcroft) murdered one of her fictional-turned-real characters, Poirot. The heroine of Liar-Soft's visual novel *"Shikkoku no Sharnoth: What a Beautiful Tomorrow"* (2008), Mary Clarissa Christie, is based on the real-life Christie. Christie features as a character in Gaylord Larsen's *"Dorothy and Agatha"* and *"The London Blitz Murders"* by Max Allan Collins. A fictionalized account of Christie's disappearance is the central theme of a Korean musical, *"Agatha."*

## 2.2 "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" is as the masterpiece of her novels

### Background

**"The Murder of Roger Ackroyd"** is a work of detective fiction by Agatha Christie, first published in June 1926 in the United Kingdom by William Collins' Sons<sup>[1]</sup> and in the United States by Dodd, Mead and Company on 19 June 1926. It is the third novel to feature Hercule Poirot as the lead detective. The basic idea of the novel was first given to her by her brother-in-law, James Watts of Abney Hall, -

who in a conversation one day suggested a novel in which the criminal would be a Dr. Watson character: i.e., the narrator of the story.

In March 1924, Christie also received an unsolicited letter from Lord Mountbatten. He had been impressed with her previous works and had written to her, courtesy of *The Sketch* magazine (publishers of many of her short stories at that time) with an idea and notes for a story whose basic premise mirrored the Watts suggestion. Christie acknowledged the letter and after some thought and planning began to write the book but kept firmly to a plot line of her invention.

In December 1969, Mountbatten wrote to Christie for a second time after having seen a performance of *The Mousetrap*. He mentioned his letter of the 1920s, and Christie replied, acknowledging the part he played in the conception of the book.

The novel received its first true publication as a fifty-four part serialisation in the *London Evening News* from Thursday, 16 July, to Wednesday, 16 September 1925, under the title, *Who Killed Ackroyd?* Like that paper's serialisation of *The Man in the Brown Suit*, there were minor amendments to the text, mostly to make sense of the openings of an instalment (e.g., changing "He then..." to "Poirot then..."). The main change was in the chapter division: the published book has twenty-seven chapters whereas the serialisation has only twenty-four. Chapter Seven of the serialisation is named *The Secrets of the Study* whereas in the book it is Chapter Eight and named *Inspector Raglan is Confident*.

In the US, the novel was serialised in four parts in *Flynn's Detective Weekly* from 19 June (Volume 16, Number 2) to 10 July 1926 (Volume 16, Number 5). The text was heavily abridged and each instalment carried an uncredited illustration.

The Collins first edition of 1926 was Christie's first work placed with that publisher. "The first book that Agatha wrote for Collins was the one that changed her reputation forever; no doubt she knew, as through 1925 she turned the idea over in her mind, that here she had a winner." HarperCollins, the modern successor

## CONCLUSION

Before concluding we would like to emphasize **the purpose of choosing this topic**, while there were other interesting ones. Since being pretty keen on literature, particularly detective genre, there was eagerness to know more about this very part of literature. And our topic coincided to learn more and to satisfy our desire at the same time. Speaking about **the most vital thing that we have found out**, A. Christie has really increased the genre into **The Golden age of the Detective genre** with her contribution to literature. A. Christie is not only an expert technician and a remarkably good story-teller, but she knows, as well, just the right number of hints to offer as to the real murderer.

After looking through all above, we can sum up our work with the point that: In the present case, murderer's identity is made all the more baffling through the author's technical cleverness in selecting the part he is to play in the story; and yet her non-committal characterization of him makes it a perfectly fair procedure. The experienced reader will probably spot him, but it is safe to say that he will often have his doubts as the story unfolds itself.

"The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" is the supreme, the ultimate detective novel. The novel makes breathless reading from first to the unexpected last. It is unfortunate that in two important points – the nature of the solution and the use of the telephone – the author has been anticipated by another recent novel: the truth is that this particular field is getting so well ploughed that it is hard to find a virgin patch anywhere. When in the last dozen pages of the novel, the answer comes to the question, "Who killed Roger Ackroyd?" the reader will feel that he has been fairly, or unfairly, sold up. Up till then he has been kept balancing in his mind from chapter to chapter the probabilities for or against the eight or nine persons at whom suspicion points. Everybody in the story appears to have a secret of his or her own hidden up the sleeve, the production of which is imperative in fitting into place the pieces in the jigsaw puzzle; and in the end it turns out that the Doctor himself is responsible for the largest bit of reticence.

This story is distinguished from most of its class by its coherence, its reasonableness, and the fact that the characters live and move and have their being: the gossip-loving Caroline would be an acquisition to any novel. The tale may be recommended as one of the cleverest and most original of its kind.

In short, we can say that Agatha Christie was a literary giant and one of the prominent novelists of the history of English literature. Through her novels She became real "Queen of Crime". And "The Murder of Royer Ackroyd" as her masterpiece, is one of the greatest works that astonished the literary world and reflected the atmosphere of the Criminal world.

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