Historical Facts and Historical Fictions

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Povzetek
This article discusses the similarities and differences between what might be called two «crises of historical consciousness» in the late 17th and the late 20th, the first engendered by a combination of philosophical scepticism with new techniques for questioning the credibility of historical sources and detecting forgeries, the second in our crisis. The result is a widespread cultural relativism to which the debates on colonialism and feminism as well as the practice of anthropology and literary theory have contributed. In both periods, the debate about epistemology is linked to the opening of the frontier between history and fiction and the rise of a hybrid genre of historical novel/novellistic exemplified by St. Real and Defoe in the first crisis, and by Eco, Keneally and many others today.

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The author of historical fiction must blend historical facts with imagination and creative style to master his art. They must also be a master of the past so as to portray accurately ideas, attitudes, tendencies, and themes and interface his story—accurate in all its details—into the thematic materials. It is no easy task, then, for an author to undertake the writing this challenging and tricky genre. Some historical fiction includes historical persons who intermingle with the central character in some way, but novels need not include such characters to qualify for the genre. Sub Genres. Historical fiction may overlap other genres, for example historical realism, historical fantasy, historical tall tales, and historical mysteries. - The genre of historical fiction novels can be subdivided into many categories and often crosses genres, such as historical mysteries and romances. The traditional definition of the historical fiction genre is “fiction set in the past” where the author is writing from research rather than personal experience. This definition leaves a lot of room for interpretation, controversy, and contradiction. The plot is created through combining historical facts with fiction which makes it believable for the reader. Beginning with examining the narrator is crucial for beginning the analysis of this novel. [tags: Historical Fiction, Historical Details, Analysis]. Strong Essays 1046 words (3 pages) | Preview.