

p. 20 out of a crossword puzzle. For the truth is that these elements, or parts, with which critics have been so curiously and so exclusively concerned, as if they were reliable clues to the origins of a literary genre, or to the identification of one, are almost as free of movement in the world of literature, and as adaptable to different purposes, as are the letters of the alphabet. By the same method and logic by which romance is derived from school exercises, one may derive the word smile from the word mile; the former contains all the elements of the latter, plus s, which may be explained as due to "development"; and as for the meaning of the combination as a whole in each case, think nothing about it! It is true that certain types of content are sure to be found in a given genre; but that is because we ourselves, not nature, have already defined that genre in a purely arbitrary manner as something that embraces that content. To infer genre from content (externally considered), or content from genre, is to argue in a circle, and to beg the primary question of what constitutes the genre, and whether there is any such thing or not.

p. 22 "Respect for distinguished teachers is often a hindrance in the path of those who would learn," says Cicero.¹⁰

Footnote 10, p. 334 Cicero, De Nat. Deorum I 10: Obest plerumque iis qui discere volunt auctoritas eorum qui se docere profitentur.

p. 27 The concept of development in literature, which assumes that one kind of writing necessarily precedes or follows another by an interval of time, allowing for change in the way people think, often tends, by misapplication, to prevent our realizing the virtual simultaneity in appearance of many diverse kinds of composition, both within and without a literary genre so called. At the very beginning of the modern English novel we have such spiritual opposites as Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded on the one hand and Tom Jones on the other; and, far off from these, though not in time, the mysterious Castle of Otranto. Richardson, Fielding, and Walpole are three different minds catering to three different facets of contemporary