



CONTAGIOUS DISEASES AND ITS REFLECTION IN LITERATURE

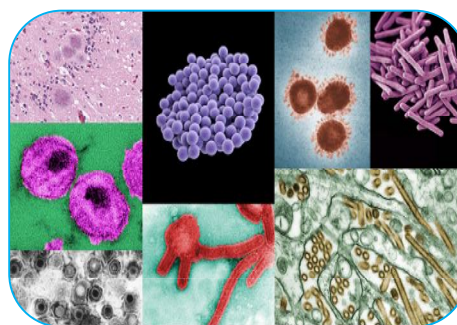
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ABSTRACT:

The purpose of this study is to provide light on the reflection of epidemics and pandemics on the literature, individuals and families; politics and foreign affairs; the medical profession, public health, community health groups, and health education programmes local, state, and federal governments, as well as commercial enterprise; and, last but not least, the national mood with remedies, research, antidotes & type of care which will be portrayed by many writers in their works. In the past, authors such as Homer and Shakespeare, as well as Albert Camus, Jack London, Daniel Defoe, Thomas Mann, and Garbiel Garcia Maquez, have created notable works about epidemics and pandemic that have lasted the test of time.



KEY WORDS: Pandemic, Epidemic, SARS, Contagious, Reflection.

INTRODUCTION:

When the impact of epidemics and pandemics on the entire world is compared, and reflected in the various literature it becomes clear that epidemics are limited to a small area of the world, i.e. three or four countries, whereas pandemics have a far larger impact and spread over the globe. Several contagious diseases have spread over the country in recent years, affecting information seeking behaviours, research trends, economics and people migration. Ebola endemic in Guinea and Sierra Leone, the 2015–2016, the 2014–2016 Zika epidemic in Brazil, Colombia, and Puerto Rico, countries are examples of epidemics. In comparison to the pandemic, the epidemic has a small scale impact on the countries. On the contrary, pandemics are the most dramatic depictions of contagious illnesses such as germs or viruses spreading quickly and effectively, functioning as the world's wildcards. The cost in human deaths is only surpassed by the social breakdown, commercial upheaval, and general panic that result. The recent COVID-19 pandemics in China are the biggest example of pandemic, The SARS pandemic in mainland China and Hong Kong in 2003. Influenza H1N1 produced the Spanish Flu in 1918, which had the most destructive effect in modern history.

ALBERT CAMUS:

The Plague is a novel by Albert Camus about Oran, a French province on the Algerian coast ravaged by a **bubonic plague** epidemic. He has highlighted the devastating impact of the bubonic

plague on diverse people's respiratory systems. **Dr. Bernard Rieux** was the first victim of plague. Rieux fights the epidemic since he is a doctor whose mission it is to alleviate human suffering. **Jean Tarrou** believes that the disease is everyone's responsibility, and that everyone should do their part in combating it. He tells Rieux how to become a saint even though he does not believe in God, because he served his life for the welfare of society. Camus described the epidemic brilliantly while the plague ravaged the Algerian town. Similarly, the current coronavirus illness (COVID-19) pandemic, which has ravaged human populations in the twenty-first century, has inflicted an incalculable human toll and crippled the global economy in many places. He also talked about the influence of diseases on society, and how certain salespeople are trying to make money off of it. It is only a few good men, working tirelessly, risking their lives, who try to fix the situation.

JACK LONDON:

The Scarlet Plague, originally published by Jack London in 1912, was one of the first examples of a novel based on epidemic consequences, in modern literature. The protagonist **James Smith** is one of the survivors of the era before the scarlet plague hit and is still left alive in the San Francisco area. Smith narrates the account of his life as an English professor before the epidemic. When a young woman's face turns scarlet, Smith sees his first victim of the scarlet plague while lecturing. She passes away fast, and the campus quickly descends into chaos. At that time, no treatment could assist, and no one could stop the epidemic from spreading; the only way to survive was to avoid contact with sick people and contaminated materials. In the past, people felt that plague was one of God's punishments for sins. This causal relationship between plague and sin is seen also in Greek literary texts, such as Homer's Iliad and Sophocles' Oedipus the King. But Jack London broke this stereotype through his work. According to these authors, the epidemic did not discriminate between good and bad, but instead resulted in the abolition of all societal norms as well as an increase in selfishness and avarice. In addition, he has given it a scientific edge, since his book differed significantly from earlier plague novels in that it reflected extensively on modern scientific discoveries on pathogens pushed by experts such as Louis Pasteur (1822–1895) and Robert Koch (1865–1910).

DANIEL DEFOE:

A Journal of the Plague Year, "Oh! Death, Death, Death!" screams a woman from the window of a house near Cornhill. No neighbours stir and the street is deserted save for the book's narrator. What does he do? Noting a chill in his blood, the man then simply continues his journey through the City of London streets. This book is a fascinating record of trying to cope during the capital's last plague epidemic of 1665." (Smith)

His work *A Journal of the Plague Year*, originally published in 1722, an imaginative reconstruction. *A Journal of the Plague Year* by Daniel Defoe is one of the best single narratives of a plague pandemic recorded in English. **H.F.**, the protagonist, takes a step back from the summer of 1665 to explain how Londoners reacted to the plague in the months leading up to it being a severe problem. H.F. regards himself as a godly and obedient man. Despite his faith in God's ability to save him, he took precautions against the disease. He displays his good nature by helping a stranger named **Robert and his young child**. He displays a morbid curiosity throughout the narrative as demonstrated by his stories about people's suffering. The book consist of observation of most amazing incidents occur in public & private sector occurred in London during the last great visitation, It's full of vivid descriptions of the way the plague moved through the different neighbourhoods of London.

Thomas Mann:

Thomas Mann's novella **Death in Venice** was one of the finest work where he discussed the consequences of the epidemic all over the world, by identifying common themes such as pandemic illness, time, and mortality and subjecting them to various critiques and analyses like- Quoting the narrator:

For several years, Indian cholera had demonstrated a greater proclivity for spreading and migration. The epidemic had spread to Hindustan, China, Afghanistan, Persia, and even Moscow, having been born in the sultry swamps of the Ganges delta, ascended with the mephitic odour of that unrestrained and unfit wasteland, that wilderness avoided by men, in the bamboo thickets of which the tiger is crouching.

The themes of uncertainty, the individual's relationship to various levels of social organization, and mortality, which Mann articulated in his work many years ago, can find relevance in early 2022 in the shape of COVID 19, which tends to bring these topics to the forefront of people's attention.

Garbiel Garcia Maquez:

Love in the Time of Cholera, a work based on the cholera pandemic, has concentrated on both the positive and bad effects of the epidemic on society, **Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza**, a secret relationship blossoms between the two at the time of cholera took place. **Urbino**, physician devoted to science, modernity, and "order and progress". He is committed to the eradication of cholera and to the promotion of **public works**. He worked for the wellbeing of his patients throughout his life, as seen by the doctor-patient relationships depicted in this book. Even during the COVID time, we presume doctors have absolute power, and doctors work for their patients 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to restore their lives. Death, sickness, and incapacity, on the other hand, have a detrimental impact on people's lives during epidemics.

CONCLUSION

This research paper, relates with the reflection of various diseases on the writing of various writers. It is the modest endeavor to reveal the devastation of human life portrayed in literature produced during epidemic and pandemic. Ex. Albert Camus's *The Plague* says as disease ravages the town of Oran in French Algeria, there is an "element of abstraction and unreality in misfortune." We learned about the behavioral responses to a pandemic, the emergence of fear, irrationality, and selfishness in our civilized society through this work. We also highlight the good aspects of human behavior, such as in Albert Camus' work, where the protagonist, Dr. Bernard Rieux, a doctor, treats patients without fear of becoming infected himself.

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