**Naturalism**

Naturalism a literary trend prevailing in Europe, especially in France and Germany, in the late 19th and early 20th century. It is an offshoot of realism——the realism without moral judgment. It is under the influence of Darwinism whose essence is the Natural Selection-“the fittest (of a certain environment) survive”. Naturalism is also against Romanticism since the Romanticism was thought to be aloof from the contemporary.

According to the theory of naturalism, literature must be “true to life” by unselectively representing reality. Naturalist works usually exposed the darkness of life, including poverty, racism, violence, prejudice, disease, corruption, prostitution, filth, or the “slum life”. They believe that the heredity and social environment largely determines one’s character, so the external appearances, but not the inner essence of one’s life are usually depicted in these works.

Emile Zola, one of the most prominent novelists of the 19th century, was a master of modern naturalism. He was noted for his theory of naturalism and his novel series *The Rougon-Marquart*.

George Gissing, a 19th century English naturalist novelist, was known for his novel *New Grub Street,* a “minor classic”. He unveiled the commercialized contemporary culture that oppressed the disinterest writers, and under which the national culture was bound to deteriorate.

Thomas Hardy, the 20th century English realistic novelist, was also under the umbrella of naturalism. He was famous for his novel *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*.

Besides, Bel Ami, Martin Eden, and The Sister Carrie are also notable naturalism works.