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Goodreads Ratings and Reviews Analysis of Booker Prize Titles

Lambodara Parabhoi¹ and Phool Rani Das²

Abstract

Online book review site like Goodreads give a platform for individual user to rate, reviews, share, suggest and many more on books. Every day a large number of new users connect with this site rate, review on books and share it with others. The site has been rapidly gaining popular among the individual user who loves to read and write the books. The site also offers the individual to determine whether, the books is worthy for him or her by examine the review and ratings on books. The site acts as evaluating tools for book lover. The current study is to examine the booker prize winner titles, how these books are popular among the individual user and how they rate, reviews on these books. The study will also find out the contribution rate between male and female. It is found that United Kingdom has won maximum number 22 times awarded the Booker Prize.

Keywords: Goodreads, Booker Prize, Citation, Book review, Book rating

1. Introduction

Goodreads is a popular book site that has million books and billions of users. This site is rapidly growing popularity having web 2.0 features any individual can register hi/her name in the site. He or She can add the books list, reviews, like, rate and recommended and many more. The site is for book lover who want reads and recommended and share it with other peoples. The site has received billion of reviews on books that will help an individual whether he/she will purchase or recommend for library. Librarian also uses this site for library and librarian can invite the patrons to review and suggests for the library. (Kadiresan, Gogoi and Singson, 2017) the site was launched in the year January 2007 by Otis Chandler and Elizabeth Chandler. (Naik and Columnist, 2012) many readers connect with book reading sites like Goodreads, LibraryThing, and Shelfar. The book site has wide range of collection such as fiction, non-fiction, science fiction, poetry etc. Goodreads can be access via

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any computer with a browser and an internet connection even if through mobile device. It has around more than 20 million registered members. It is also connected with Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter (Doe, 2014). Goodreads also offer award like Goodreads Choice Award given annually, which is nominated by Goodreads. The awarded is given for 20 different categories. The current study is on Booker prize award book titles. It was first introduced in the year 1969 and the winner of this awarded has given of £50,000 and all the shortlisted authors each received £2,500 (Thebookerprize.com, 2018). The award was formally known as the Booker–McConnell Prize. The prize is given to the original novel author and written in English language. The prize very renown because it is assured that the winner of the title and has significance for the book trade.

2. Objectives of the study

1. To identify the country received most number of Booker prize titles wins
2. To determine the gender to have most of booker prize win
3. To compare whether books publisher by Male or Female written books have received greater ratings
4. To identify titles mostly rated by the user
5. To find out titles with highest average rating given by the user
6. To find out titles with most reviews given by the user

3. Review of Literature

(Kadiresan, Gogoi and Singson, 2017a) Goodreads free database that user can search annotations, and reviews. (Knox, 2012) Goodreads is a book oriented social network where peoples are discussing a lot of things about lot of books. Goodreads have quality control system with expert who cares about the standard of the books and biological details of the books. Member of the Goodreads are very busy not only with reading the books but also reviews, rate them, share with others, recommend them, make lists of them, collect quotes from them make quizzes about them. (Thelwall & Kousha, 2016) Goodreads is social web site owned by Amazon, members can share books read, review books, rate books and connect with other readers. It has tens of millions of recommendations, book reviews and ratings that help to librarians as well readers to choose relents books. (Kousha & Thelwall, 2015) Goodreads contains a large number of book reviews and ratings by many users inside and outside of academia. (Liu, Chen, & Chiu, 2013) recently in book market there are very similar book are found in very easily and reader have no time go thought each books reader needs good quality books and the avoid to regret after purchasing of books as a result of that readers look on the reviewer's comments of the book

while purchasing books. According the good reads site (Goodreads.com, 2018) about 80 million registered members and 2.3billion books added and 80 million received by Goodreads. More recently (Thelwall, 2017) conducted a study on informal book reviews from the Goodreads.com website. He explored the influence of reader and author genders on book evaluations within genres. He analysed 201,560 books and their reviews, focusing on the top 50 user-specified genres. Similarly (Thelwall&Kousha, 2016a) study title “Goodreads: A social network site for book readers1’. The author randomly analysed 50,000 members’ profiles. The result show that about three quarters of members of Goodreads is female. Also found there was little difference between male and female users in patterns of behaviour however females registering more books and rating them less positively. Goodreads librarians and super user are used mostly used most features of the Goodreads site. Another a study made by (Kadiresan, Gogoi and Singson, 2017b) sentiment analysis of “The Sellout: Readers Sentiment Analysis of 2016 Man Booker Prize Winner”. (Zuccala, Verleysen, Cormacchia, & Engels, 2015) assess the important of Goodreads as an altmetric data source. The authors explore reader ratings found in Goodreadsand compared with citations received to history books.

4. Methodology

For this study the data set was collected from Goodreads using web Webometric Analyst software (<http://lexiurl.wlv.ac.uk>) and the list was compiled from using Booker prize website (<https://themanagerprize.com/>).Tthe books statistics export from Goodreads site on date 03-09-2018 via Application Programming Interface (API) using Webometric Analyst software. This program extracted information like books reviews, average rating, ISBN, work reviews, ratings etc. the data was analysed using Ms-excel.

5. Data Analysis

5.1 Booker prize titles by country

The Table 1 gives information about number of times a particular country won booker prize. The data inform that the authors from United Kingdom has won the most number 22 of times the booker prize award as compare to other countries. Furthermore the table inform that Australian authors have won the booker prize title 5 times followed by authors from India, Ireland and South Africa won the titles each 3 times, however some authors have mentioned dual citizenship booker site which has mentioned in the below table.

Table 1: Booker prize titles by country

Country	No of Time
Australia	5
Canada	2
Canada / New Zealand	1
Canada / Sri Lanka	1
India	3
Ireland	3
Ireland / United Kingdom	1
Jamaica	1
New Zealand	1
Nigeria	1
South Africa	3
United Kingdom	22
United Kingdom / Germany	1
United Kingdom / India	1
United Kingdom / Ireland	2
United Kingdom / Japan	1
United Kingdom / Trinidad and Tobago	1
United States	1
Grand Total	51

5.2 Booker Prize Titles by Gender

The figure 1 depicts how many times a male and females won the booker prize out of total 51 times. The data found that male authors won maximum number of 35 times of the booker prize title as compare to female 16 times won the Booker prize titles.

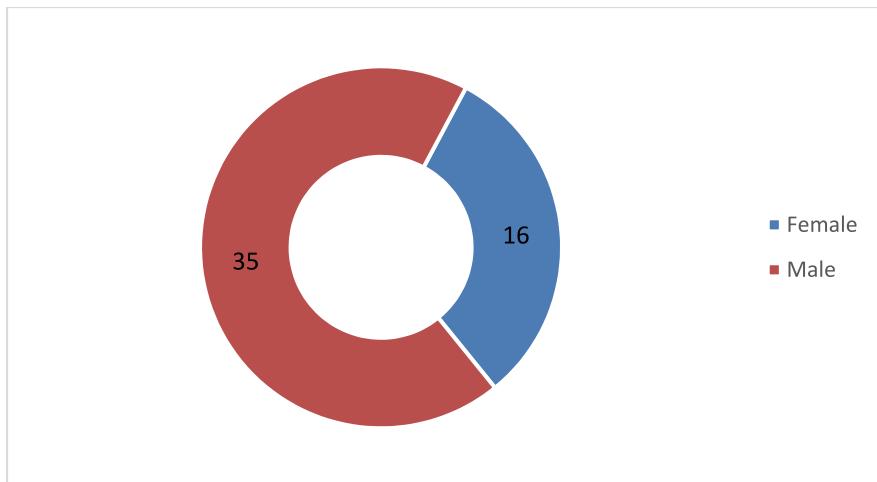


Figure 1: Won Booker prize by Gender

5.3 Average rating

Goodreads have offered rating to book indexed. The rating has given by the individual user in Goodreads. Table 2 illustrates the top ten average rating Booker prize winner books. It can be seen that serial number 1-7 books having average rating above 4 whereas only three titles have placed in the top ten list having below 4 average rating. It can also observe from the below table that the highly average rating 4.34 title is Schindler's Ark by Thomas Keneally from Australia.

Table 2: Top ten average rating Booker Prize winner books

SL No	TITLE	AUTHOR	COUNTRY	Gender	Average Rating
1	Schindler's Ark	Thomas Keneally	Australia	Male	4.34
2	Bring Up The Bodies	Hilary Mantel	United Kingdom	Female	4.27
3	The Ghost Road	Pat Barker	United Kingdom	Female	4.11
4	The Remains of the Day	Kazuo Ishiguro	United Kingdom/Japan	Male	4.11
5	Sacred Hunger	Barry Unsworth	United Kingdom	Male	4.1
6	The Bone People	Keri Hulme	New Zealand	Male	4.06
7	The Narrow Road to the Deep North	Richard Flanagan	Australia	Male	4.01

SL No	TITLE	AUTHOR	COUNTRY	Gender	Average Rating
8	Midnight's Children	Salman Rushdie	United Kingdom/ India	Male	3.99
9	The Blind Assassin	Margaret Atwood	Canada	Female	3.95
10	The God of Small Things	Arundhati Roy	India	Female	3.93

5.4 Work reviews

The table 3 gives information about top ten highest reviews received booker prize titles given by the users as the Goodreads provide opportunity to give reviews on books. The book reviews is very much important when going to purchase a book. Librarian can purchase these books based on recommendation and positive reviews. Reviews can be positive or negative. It can be assumed that based on title and story of the books, these reviews are given by the users. We found the Life of Pi written by Yann Martel (Male) have received highest number work reviews as compare to others 1713301.

Table 3: Top ten highest reviews received Booker Prize titles

Sl No	TITLE	AUTHOR	Gender	COUNTRY	Work Reviews
1	Life of Pi	Yann Martel	Male	Canada	1713301
2	The God of Small Things	Arundhati Roy	Female	India	370353
3	The Remains of the Day	Kazuo Ishiguro	Male	United Kingdom/ Japan	308957
4	Wolf Hall	Hilary Mantel	Female	United Kingdom	252134
5	The Blind Assassin	Margaret Atwood	Female	Canada	243397
6	Schindler's Ark	Thomas Keneally	Male	Australia	239624
7	Midnight's Children	Salman Rushdie	Male	United Kingdom/ India	224534
8	The Sense of an Ending	Julian Barnes	Male	United Kingdom	214039
9	The White Tiger	Aravind Adiga	Male	India	198872
10	The Luminaries	Eleanor Catton	Female	Canada/New Zealand	167439

5.5 Work Ratings

The table 4 shows work ratings given the booker prize winner titles. For this study it is considered top ten highest works rating given titles. The work rating includes all stars given to particular title from 1-5 stars. The tile Life of pie by Yann Martel (Canada) received highest work ratings 1141800 given by the users as well has highest reviews rating in table 2 followed by The God of Small Things written by Arundhati Roy (India) with 202415 ratings. It can be seen that both male and female written books have placed in the top ten list. In the top ten rating list it is found rating range between above 91 thousand to above 11 lakh.

Table 4: Work Ratings

Sl No	TITLE	AUTHOR	Gender	COUNTRY	Work Ratings
1	Life of Pi	Yann Martel	Male	Canada	1141800
2	The God of Small Things	Arundhati Roy	Female	India	202415
3	The Remains of the Day	Kazuo Ishiguro	Male	United Kingdom/Japan	153794
4	The White Tiger	Aravind Adiga	Male	India	135943
5	Wolf Hall	Hilary Mantel	Female	United Kingdom	130301
6	The Sense of an Ending	Julian Barnes	Male	United Kingdom	126509
7	The Blind Assassin	Margaret Atwood	Female	Canada	120399
8	Schindler's Ark	Thomas Keneally	Male	Australia	117451
9	The English Patient	Michael Ondaatje	Male	Canada/Sri Lanka	98884
10	Midnight's Children	Salman Rushdie	Male	United Kingdom/India	91332

5.6 Work reviews

It can be seen from the table 5 that there are 19 titles found range above 50000 reviews followed by range between 15000 to 50000 reviews found 17 tiles and only 15 titles found range Up to 15000.

Table 5: Work Review

Sl. No.	Work reviews range	No of titles
1	Upto 15000	15
2	Above 15000 to Upto 50000	17
3	Above 50000	19

5.6 Top Five Star rated titles

The Table 6 depict the top ten five star rated books awarded booker prize. This rating has given by the user. The study found that, top five books from serial number 1-5 have 40% and 40% above 5 stars ratings whereas in serial number 6-10 have 35%-39% peoples have given five start to the individual title. The title “Schindler’s Ark by Thomas Keneally” by Thomas Keneally has rated 52% (62046) peoples rated 5 star which is greater than other titles.

Table 6: Five Star rated titles

Sl. No.	Star rating	% of individual books	Title and Authors	Gender
1	5	52% (62046)	Schindler's Ark by Thomas Keneally	Male
2	5	47% (26805)	Bring Up the Bodies by Hilary Mantel	Female
3	5	41% (7343)	The Bone People by Keri Hulme	Male
4	5	41% (2303)	Sacred Hunger by Barry Unsworth	Male
5	5	40% (5483)	The Ghost Road by Pat Barker	Female
6	5	39% (61050)	The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro	Male
7	5	38% (35550)	Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie	Male
8	5	38% (15303)	The Narrow Road to the Deep North by Richard Flanagan	Male
9	5	36% (48119)	Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel	Female
10	5	35% (72568)	The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy	Female

6. Conclusion

This study made an attempt to determine booker prize winner tiles by Goodreads and how these titles are rated and reviews by the user. This study gives added value to the individual as well as to the Librarian for choosing and purchasing of books. The advantages of an online book shop review is that its gives individual buyer to decide whether this book is worthy or not. From library perspective, it has been seen that library has always facing problem with space as well budget. So this reviews and ratings system from Goodreads may help library too when to purchase bulk or single book.

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