

Philippine Literature Through Time

Youth today, also known as the gen Zs, are quite active in any social media. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tiktok, name a social media platform, they know it. They are updated in every issue that arises. The Philippines is dubbed as the “Social media capital of the world” (Pablo, 2018; Mateo, 2018). Statistically speaking, there are 73 million active social media users out of the 100 million population of the Philippines — as of 2020. What can be the connection of these statistics to the Philippine literature? Most of the literature today can be found and read on the platform I have mentioned above. With the statistics presented, the Philippine Literature can slowly be recognized by our society. But still, there are resistance about the literature in our country today.

Back in the days, physical books were the only source of leisure and knowledge when it comes to readers. It was quite hard for people to keep up since not everyone has access to the bookstore, or even have the means to purchase it. Even during colonization, stories are published through expressing their perspective and emotions about a certain situation. Jose Rizal, a famous writer in our country who is known for expressing his resistance about the Spanish colonization. He wrote *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, these stories are still discussed in any Filipino institutions. Many novels were also published, poems, and even drama. But they are all written by a paper and a pen.

As time passes by, many literary forms arise. The year 2006, Allen Lau and Ivan Yuen developed a social storytelling platform, Wattpad. In this application, you can connect with people who read, publishing of stories can also be done. The birth of this platform made the other eBooks application recognized. You can read different genres such as: romance, mystery, thriller and more in Wattpad. It is a global storytelling application which makes it accessible for many countries. You can also access various stories with soft copies. eBooks are more convenient for avid readers. Aside from its accessibility, it is easier to upgrade. It is more portable and customizable. It is better than physical books because it does not need trees to be a prototype (Angier, N.D). Just click publish and many people can see and access your works. eBooks offers wide varieties of stories according to your interest.

In the end, readers will still choose the option wherein they are able to read books. They have the liberty to choose what platform to use. There are advantages and disadvantages in every choice, but at the end of the day, your comfort is what matters.