Introduction
Introduction

1.1 What is Science Fiction:

Science fiction is primarily concerned with stories that describe futuristic literature usually set in the future. It is now recognized as a literary form with its history, traditions, conventions and its major writers. ‘Man has walked on the moon – once just fantasy, dismissed as ridiculous, is now reality. Such is the background of Science fiction; it is highly popular in modern age. It is commonly abbreviated as SF or Sci-Fi. It is a consequence of mankind’s achievements into the field of science and technology, those hypothesis upon which our modern science is experimented, thus our modern civilization is built. Their objective is to explore, to discover, to learn by means of projection extrapolation analogue hypothesis- and proper experimentation, something about the nature of the universe of man or reality. Because science fiction is such a strange genre blending hypothesis with imagination and it is the reader who is asked to conjure up his imagination in collaboration with the author’s imagination. No wonder SF -- is according to some -- the literature of power and literature of knowledge. Among the fine arts, Sci-Fi alone can deal with fantasy and reality. It not only gives delight but also transports- it moves. As D.A.K. London in his A Pictorial History of Science Fiction states, “It is a product of our industrial and scientific revolution shaped by technology, a new cultural force in our world” (P.10) London admits that science fiction is born out of scientific revolution in the age of science, that pillar upon which a new cultural life came into force.

Science-fiction as the literature of power – Science Fiction writers are capable of producing good and fashionable art from. They are strongly in favour of the marvelous and the uncommon. Their writings clip our imagination and faster the spirit of reason.
SF or fantastic reality opens our eyes to the astounding, exciting and alluring meanings in the world of human existence, and of universe, to which otherwise we remain blind. The true science fiction writer is one in whom the power of foreseeing and experimenting exists in a pre-eminent degree, and to whom, another power also has been given- the power of expressing and interpreting what he sees and feels, so that it broadens our knowledge and makes us observe and foresee with him. He awakens the mind from the lethargy of old custom and describes the powers we now wield. As John Clute in his *Science Fiction: The Illustrated Encyclopedia* quotes, “Because we are now so powerful, and numerous and because we now have the knowledge to transform both our world and ourselves utterly, for good or for ill, each choice we make today has a previously unprecedented, whiplash effect on tomorrow. We do have that much power, all of us” (P.6). Clute admits that we can broaden our knowledge far more than we expect to, when we start to try. The taste grows supple and flexible, by training. Science fiction enables us to enter into changed world with the arguments of contemporary science. In science fiction, science will not disturb an up to date reader on the contrary, in some respects the science seems to be more intelligible than other subjects.

*In what way Science Fiction is different from other forms of Literature:*

Science fiction is unique in literature not only because of its content but also by virtue of its imagination which it expresses since pro-science fiction. As D.A.K. London opines, “Simply Science Fiction is fantasy fiction written under the strict, new rules of science. Thus, although science fiction is fantasy fiction the inverse is not true. Both deals with the unusual, both are the most imaginative and inventive of man’s speculative literature” (P.10). D.A.K. London admits that science fiction consists of man’s imaginary invention or discovery set in the near future involving imaginative speculation in physical science, space, time and life sciences.

The projection of new heavens and new hells has been a common place in science fiction. This projection interweaves fantasy and reality. Fantasy
presents an unusual, especially a happier kind of life is described as simply existing somewhere. Science fiction makes it possible life in paradise that has been achieved by human efforts dependent on scientific and technological or quasi-scientific development. Thus the earthly paradise is created in which a new kind of life has been discovered by the earthlings.

Science fiction considered as a system – a small or neither much larger system; solar system, the machinery, the Alien life, the universe of human kingdom etc. A fiction is a form of literature deals with imaginary characters and imaginary events. A science fiction is partly science and partly a novel; it is like a science because it deals with the scientific world view and it is like a fiction because some of the characters and events are fictitious or imaginary created by the writer himself. Thus it combines the interest of both science and the fiction. The difference between an ordinary novel and a science fiction is that the ordinary novel deals with the contemporary social background or even with any other background, while the science fiction deals with a particular background the galaxy of modern science. Hence in judging a science fiction, we have to consider how far the novelist has succeeded in creating the system and in bringing it before the readers eye, vividly and secondly how far his futurogical is true to science.

It is true that science fiction stories are pleasant reading for millions more than novels. They project a life in which men live and feel differently, a highly specialized and efficient way by technological discoveries. Many readers read science fiction because they desire to escape from in oppressive and dull environment. They seek the fantasy of a story, or the excitement of imaginary character models deep rooted in science. Science fiction is found in any story about robots, androids, computers, machine, superman and super women. Science fiction writers owe to scientific ideology. This ideology has received its fullest expression in their novels. They have the natural urge to indulge our sense of wonder in the externally altered world in which a new kind of life has been made available by science. It is true for H.G. Wells, Karel
Capek, Aldous Huxley and to a lesser extent even for many Shelly, George Orwell and others that might be called science fiction writers.

1.2 Importance of Science Fiction

Humans have always been curious about the world around them. The inquiring and imaginative human mind has responded to the world of science. Scientists have written treatises with artistic taste, looked for meaningful patterns, made new tools to interact with nature and made remarkable innovations to understand the world. This human approach is called science. The humans have natural flair for the world of wonders. For the past century, science fiction writers have been trying to create a scientific temper for the human race. In order to succeed in an area of science, the common man needs to know basic knowledge of science and technology. With the shift of emphasis from mere literary studies to cultural studies, the many writers in the field have produced trivial, empirical works of science fiction. This study is popularly known as popular fiction and is enlisted in their ambit. As a result, the area of science fiction became one of the streams of study in many of the departments of English.

In India, science literacy is totally negligible. There are two broad divisions in science literacy. One is meant for niche science professionals, who already have fair amount of knowledge of science like scientists, doctors, engineers, science teachers etc. The other type is meant for the general public who may or may not have basics of science. The second type of group has to learn science themes through familiar experiences, working module science journals and popular science. Today several new areas of science have come and the ambit of science is very wide. In order to succeed in an era of knowledge, economy development of a science society has vital role to play. The work of building scientific awareness among arts stream students could be best done by popular science i.e. science fiction stories through which literature students gather general information. As a result, the area of science fiction has opened up its door for course of study as well as literary research that brings
several benefits and adds spice to course students. The departments of English are strengthened by literature of science through science fiction studies that inspired many aspiring students.

In contemporary times, science fiction stories populate the arena of cyber space. In the late 20th century, machine interfaces, implants, new modes of personality are configuring the Techno-bodies of science fiction. Techno culture affects every aspect of our life. Modern age is emerging with nano technology, cyber soldiers cosmetic surgery, machine man implants, pharmacological alternations, cloning, and Roberts etc. Computer war games, Hollywood films, visual effects, special effects, computer generated imagery and other technologies made it possible to visually realize the imaginary world of science fiction. Science fiction dominates the audio visual media, including films, television and computer games. Most of the best selling films of all times have been in the genre of science fiction, fantasy and horror films. There is also the increasing acceptance that science fiction of Star Trek-, the Doctor who has achieved a degree of popularity among young ones. Many of the prominent authors in this field declare themselves to be science fiction writers with the same apparent desire to be categorized as the specialist in science fiction writing. Science fiction is highly influential writing today, the field has been dominated by doctrinaire editors and writers. The writers made a lot of money for their publications and emerged as experts in their respective field of study.

With the growth of the scientific temper, we now know that reason and imagination are fairly blended in our study of literature. Scientifiction justifies its study as an aspect of modern literature as well as an important feature of contemporary culture. We recognise that certain elements of science fiction are sufficiently appearing in artistic literature also. The department of English is trying to create a modern conscience for the human race. Good science fiction can be enormously educative as well as interesting. It is primarily concerned with truth and reality. It can be a useful tool for enlightenment of an individual who lives in a society. Science fiction writers act as philosophers and point out
the future of civilizations to preserve its humanity. They educate and prepare society to cope with the fast changes that technology brings in, Science fictions by and large have grown from an idea of progress. They take account of the fact that our view of the universe and our status in it may be radically the advancement of scientific powers. Science fiction has a vital role to play here. It can alone spread scientific awareness among people and set them into a knowledgeable society.

1.3 Salient Characteristics of Science Fiction:

1. Science fiction covers rich and varied themes. A science fiction story creates a ‘Novum’- an imaginary world that is a radical deviation from the real world. Science fiction offers us a different world created by the author.

2. A good science fiction story will predict the future. It aims to undermine the complacency of men about their future prospects. It may equally predict some of the anxieties of men in the industrialized nations today.

3. A science fiction story reflects a new kind of life discovered by science and technology. It is a symbol of all the advances that science has been making so far. Here large number of people is introduced to an almost endless list of marvelous new inventions; gas, electric light, the communication technology, computers, space travel, robots, wireless transmission and the cyber world. Science seemed to have limitless potential and people are willing to believe that almost anything is possible. Science became a ready market for a human being to purchase anything in the world market.

4. Science fiction stories may be based on the theories of evolution, of Charles Darwin: They reflect survival for fittest, extinct of species and their final fate on the earth. The stories will invariably deal with the transformation or modification of the species. Science fiction stories acknowledge the problems of domination inherent in the split between higher and lower stages of evolution.
5. Science fiction stories deal with life on other planets, the life that evolved on the Mars, the Moon ... etc. They show life on other planets is considerably more advanced than on earth. The core of science fiction works that most interest is today is that they portray the extra terrestrial creatures like aliens creatures.

6. However, a science fiction story will showcase the draw backs of technological civilization itself. Science fiction writers act as philosophers and point out the future of civilization to preserve its humanity. Though the human beings operate a civilization based on an overwhelming technology, but subject to the death in early youth.

1.4 The Elements of Science Fiction:

The mainstream fiction and the science fiction have the same elements and deal more or less with the same things. The elements in common are plot, character, dialogue, background and philosophy of life. Of course both of them are form of art and have their own characteristic excellence and limitations. One cannot be a complete substitute for the other. Though mainstream novel and science fiction have much in common, their technique is different.

James Gunn marks the basic difference between science fiction and the mainstream fiction.

Science fiction is a search for humanity’s origin, its purpose and its ultimate fate. Mainstream fiction may seem more ‘real’ because it reflects the reality that most people deal within their everyday existence. The shape of mainstream fiction is dictated by its behalf is what is important. It is dense with character.”(P.12) (Quoted in Understanding Science Fiction)

James Gunn admits that science fiction is a study of human life on this universe whereas mainstream novel describes the life vividly with emotional characters.
We find the following elements of science fiction are suitable for discussion.

1. **Setting:** Settings in science fiction is the literature of change. And it is all due to the explosive growth of science. Industrial revolution is the main reason for nations like Britain itself from an agricultural nation to urbane, modern civic country, wholly dependent on industry for its wealth and prosperity. Between 1890 and 1914 large number of people were introduced to an almost endless list of marvelous new inventions, gun, electric light, the telephone, mobile, air travel, wireless transmission, the gramophones and the internal contraction engine were some of the most significant ones. Science and technology held the key to progress and thus represented bourgeois society’s investment in its own future.

Setting or background in a novel supplies the information that is necessary for introducing the entire milieu. The social problems of the earlier Victorian of Charlotte Bronte, Dickens, Kingsley and Read gave place to points in biology, psychology and pathology. Thus we have the novels of marine life, of industrial life, of commercial life and so on. Science fiction utilizes above themes in its settings.

Every background inevitably makes some sociological assumptions and has an extensive influence on the mind of a reader. So too with science fiction also. Science fiction studies bourgeois society-its norms, customs, and way of life.

2. **Plot:** The plots of science fiction are simple direct and effective. They hold the reader’s interest at all times and to keep him guessing about what will happen next. The plots in science fiction provide enjoyable suspense and exotic surprise too.

In some science fiction novels the story moves rather jerkily and may be some awkward shifts of focus. But on the whole fiction is told with extraordinary skill. They contain the chains of observations, anticipated vision, fantasy, hypothesis, problems, and stresses, strains, written with an artistic way.
The very texture of the story is modified by the novelist’s scientific exactness of observation and scrupulous regard for details. In science fiction, science will not disturb an up-to-date reader. On the contrary, in some respects the science seems to be more intelligible than other subject. The plot or situation in science fiction commands more attention from the author than a character. And in most stories there is a simple exoticism, generally tied to the supernatural or magical romance. It is through the plot the science fiction writer exercises artistic control over science theme, arranging the events in such a way as one event leads to another. One can obtain pleasure from its vitality. The writers contemplate an environment, speculate on the possibilities that could descend upon it and imaginatively transform it. They concerned with humanity, his relation to environment in the mass. It implies the imaginative reconstruction of life in which a new kind of life has been explored by human effort.

3. Character: Character is the fountainhead of the mainstream novel. It is the life blood of a master spirit. It tries to create living characters. But science fiction does not present living characters with flow of sensations. Character is subverted; in the use of stereotypic figures. Scientific ideology replaces characters. Science fiction character does not appeal to our emotions but to our reason. As Scott Sanders the author of the Chapter “Characterization in Science Fiction: Two approaches. 1. The Disappearance of Character” in *Science Fiction: A Critical Guide* observes:

> In its treatment of character science fiction reproduces the experience of living in a regimented, conformist society, within which the individual has become anonymous, persons are interchangeable, relating to each other socially defined roles, actions are governed by procedure, and thus do not characterize the actor, emotion is repressed in favour of reason, the individual is subordinated to system. (P.131-132)

Scott Sanders admits that the character in conformist society is subordinated to the system itself. The humans become the slaves of machines, dance like system and have no identity of themselves. In Science fiction, the character emerging as
superman, more fundamental, more liberal when he seeks liberal ideology from the system. He needs a change. He is driven even farther and wish for something, however dangerous or foolish to get away from the dull life under the influence of scientific application i.e. world transformation motives. With the breakdown of age-old stabilities of behalf there has come an ever-widening pursuit of new life and fantastic goals expressed in his actions. Here character goes into strange parts of the earth or universe for his adventures. The character becomes the focus of the novel and creates interest in the story.

4. **Machine Character:** Some science fiction characters are machines, computers, cyborg, monsters, mutants, aliens that preside over every detail of story. As a result individual characters have been reduced to numbers. The computers play dominant role from market place to kitchen sink; no one is interested to read a character but machine. The Androids are designed to look like humans and the threat to identity which they symbolize have become common place in novels.

5. **Philosophy of Life:** Every serious novel implies some sort of philosophy of life in the particular sense. This is the most sustaining thing in a novel. It is true in science fiction too.

Science fiction writers take us into modern life and show the horrifying results of scientific applications into the principles of life. They show an extraordinary ability to look into the future and many of their predictions have proved to be true.

Science fiction writers specifically proposed for scientific and cultural co-operation. They behaved that social problems must be tackled in the interest of the species as a whole, not of any particular class; nation or race. Human problems were connected to a wider range of problems, which science fiction writers called those of ‘human ecology’- the adaptation of the human species to its environment. Social problems, economic problems, political problems of the day found solutions in the philosophies of science fiction writers.
Science had proved a mixed blessing. It had increased man’s power for good but also his power for evil. The science fiction writers were very few people to realize the vast destructive power of modern technology. Their stories emphasis the need for education to form social values. They forewarned repeatedly of the catastrophes to come if international co-operation was not achieved. The science fiction writings marked with imaginative in sight into the possibility of things under the influence of science. Whatever the advances made in science, the problems were also there for all to see. The world is controlled by science and technology. People are interested in money making, military gains, production of weapons and other invisible applications of science. People worship power. The science fiction writer interpret such life by representation. The novelist philosophies such life by direct personal commentary and explanation.

Scientific education became popular in the form of popular science. Science fiction writers populirised science theme and connected it to the stream of ‘humanity branch’. Net result is social and technological themes combined in one web of study. Science very philosophy of life is unique, the science fiction philosophy naturally plays a very important part in the human life.

1.5 Concept in the Form of Few Definitions:

Science fiction is not a new development arising solely out of twentieth century advances in upper atmosphere research, atomic structure and rocketry. It is as old as ancient civilization itself. All definitions of science fiction have a component of prescription (What they habitually) do and what kind of things tend to accumulate under the label. Some of the definitions are cited as fallows.

1. “The Oxford, English Dictionary (Microscopic) defines science fiction as imaginative fiction based on postulated scientific discoveries or spectacular environmental changes, frequently set in the future or on other planets and involving space or time travel” (P.2). It describes science fiction as imaginative fiction which includes stories set in the future, especially themes related to space or time travel.
Isaac Asimov, describes, “Modern science fiction is the only form of literature that consistently considers the nature of the changes that face us the possible consequences and the possible solutions. The branch of literature which is concerned with the impact of scientific advance upon human beings.” (http://scifi.about.com/od/scififantasy101/a/SCIFL_def.html) Asimov opines science fiction keeps in touch with changes, solutions and discusses the impact of scientific progress on human beings.

Amis Kingsley on the other hand defines science fiction as “science fiction is that class of prose narrative treating of a situation that cold not arise in the world we know but which is hypothesized on the basses of some innovation in science or technology, or pseudo-technology, whether human or extra terrestrial in origin.” (New Maps of Hell, London, 1960). Ray Bradbury, another critic defines it as, “Science fiction is really sociological studies of the future things that the writer behaves are going to happen by putting two and two together.” (http://scifi.about.com/od/scififantasy101/a/SCIFL_def.html).

Reginald Bretnor expresses a positive attitude about the genre. He defines science fiction as “fiction based on rational speculation regarding the human experience of science and its resultant technologies.” (http://scifi.about.com/od/scififantasy101/a/SCIFL_def.html). Bretnor admits that science fiction is man’s speculations about science and technology which will occur in near future.

Terry Carr, optimistically defines the power of science fiction. Therefore he opines, “Science fiction is literature about the future, telling stories of the marvels we hope to see – or for our descendants to see – tomorrow in the next century, or in the limitless duration time.” (Dream’s Edge, Sierre Club Books, San Fransisco, 1980) (Quoted in About.com Sci-Fi Fantasy). He stresses that science fiction marvels that occur in future i.e. our children see in the next era.

Theodore sturgeon, science fiction writer stretches his imagination within the boundary of human experiences.
“A science fiction story is a story build around human beings, with human problems and a human solution, which would not have happened at all without its scientific content.” (The Issue At Hand: Studies In Contemporary Magazine Fiction, Chicago, 1964) (Quoted in About.com Sci-Fi Fantasy)

Theodore believes that science fiction is in a real sense, capable of being scientific because of its science content.

Brian Stableford also genuinely stresses the scientific powers of science fiction. He defines, “True science fiction is fiction which attempts to build logically coherent imaginary worlds based on premises licensed by the world view of contemporary science.” (Very Slight Editing From his GOH Speech, ConFuse 91) (Quoted in About.com Sci-Fi Fantasy). Brian admits that science fiction no doubt deals with imaginary world but is fully fundamentally based on contemporary science.

Donald A. Wolleheim describes, “Science fiction is that branch of fantasy, which, while not true to present – day knowledge is rendered plausible by the readers recognition of the scientific possibilities of it being possible at some future date or at some uncertain point in the past.” (The Universe Makers) (Quoted in About.com Sci-Fi Fantasy).

Donald admits that science fiction is a branch of fantasy which may or may not true to contemporary science. But possible in some future date.

Hugo Gernsback 1926 defines,

By Scientifiction’ I mean the Jules Verne, H.G. wells and Edgar Allan Poe type of story – a charming romance intermingled with scientific fact and prophetic vision … Not only do these amazing tales make tremendously interesting reading- they are always instructive. They supply knowledge… in a very palatable form… New adventures pictured for us in the Scientifiction of today are not at all impossible of realization tomorrow… Many great science stories destined to be of historical are still to be written. Posterity will point to them as having
blazed a new trail, not only in literature and fiction, but progress as well.  
(Published in April 1926, Issue of Amazing Stories) (Quoted in  

Gernsback appreciates a story that mingles science and fiction dealing with charming romance. The author with his prophetic vision can picturise a new world, which not only delights you but also is more instructing at its best part.

John W Campbell, Jr. defines:

Scientific methodology involves the preposition that a well constructed theory will not only explain every known phenomenon but will also predict new and still undiscovered phenomena. Science-fiction tries to do much the same- and write up, in story form, what the results look like when applied not only to machines, but to human society as well.


Campbell opines that science fiction explains known facts but also invents unknown phenomena. Its relationship extends from man to machine. It touches on many things and influences our lives.

Christopher Evans 1988 observes, “Perhaps the crispest definition is that science fiction is a literature of ‘what if’? What if we could travel in time? What if we made contact with alien races? And so on. The starting point is that the writer supposes things are different from how we know them to be.”  

Evans states that science fiction speculates about what may happen if things are happened so. The story is an attempt to anticipate this discovery extrapolated from present existed scientific knowledge.

Jeff Prucher 2006 writes, Science fiction, is:

A genre (of literature, film, etc.) in which the setting differs from our own world (e.g. by the invention of new technology, through contact with aliens, by having a different history, etc.) and in
which the difference is based on extrapolations made from one or more changes or suppositions; hence, such a genre in which the difference is explained (explicitly or implicitly) in scientific or rational, as opposed to supernatural, terms. (Brave New World. Oxford: Oxford University Press. P.171) (Quoted in http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/definitionsofsciencefictionhtml )

Prucher observes that science fiction, is distinct form of literature it gives information on new technology, employs extrapolative ideas as opposed to supernatural theories.

The emphasis in all of these definitions fall on the presence of science, future world, Alien world, new technology that often involves speculations based on current science. There is no single definition for SF to show its vast field. The genre has been dominated by cosmological fiction from ancient period to modern days. It is flexible enough to include soft SF, Hard SF themes, Adventure story, horror, thriller, comic adventure story, and even children fantastic world. It is the study of our universe and the position of man in that universe. A scientific way of understanding the universe developed in the form of fiction. Fiction, specially science fiction became more and more popular in the hands of scholars. They began to explore worlds in relation to man. Things that had seemed fantastic in past became reality from space to earth planet, and to super bombs. As Adam Roberts in his The History of Science Fiction, states:

Science’ as the term is generally understood means, roughly, a discipline which seeks to understand and explain the cosmos in materialist (rather than spiritual or supernatural) terms; a deductive, experimental discourse characterized by what the German Philosopher Karl Popper (1902 - 1994) called ‘falsifiability’, whereby the accumulation of empirical data can disprove but never actively prove a theory.(P.4)
Science fiction on the other hand is projecting the cosmos non-experimental discourse that might be made reality some day. It could not be deductive but explores universe more speculative than other forms of literature. As Robert Scholes and Eric S. Rabkin in *SF Science Fiction*, observe “Both science and science fiction make a conscious effort to recognize their beliefs and examine their validity. In this way both arrive at new and potentially more useful fictions.” (P.162). The authors admit that both science and fiction together are well mingled to present a subject as accurately and vividly as possible. A science story, which has been presented vividly and accurately, therefore strikes us as particularly interesting.

Science fiction cannot be defined by simple formula. The genre is either proved or not proved as real science. But it has been giving expression to the dreams of fantastic reality, pseudo-science, hypothesis, future occurrence, etc. The emphasis in all of these definitions falls on the presence of science or future world, as a necessary part of the fiction.

*Science Fiction in other Media*

As a film genre science fiction has entered in every mode of popular media. Of the technological media, it has been successfully employed in film; its franchise has spawned other media including books, Television series Video games and Radio. Science fiction films attempt to depict setting scene, character, costumes, and music in more fanciful and spectacular way. The film gives us a clear insight into images which spring to life in the hands of an artist. The world of image we see in film media becomes enchanting. Some images – species of alien creatures, (often humanoid), Robotic droids, space travel, planets in the galaxy, which features a miraculous in images rather than of printed page. Science fiction films have a special relationship with Holy wood.

1.6 On Teaching SF

With the shift of emphasis from ‘mere literature’ to ‘humanities’, SF is now taught in many of the Departments of English – a university, college, high school, evening school or writing course. As a result science fiction courses are
offered in the colleges. There are some courses that use science fiction course, as its core component. There are other courses that use science fiction as a way of introducing science, computer science, Artificial intelligence, evolutionary biology etc.

*On the Goals of SF Teaching at +2 Science Stream Level*

The teaching of English as second language in our colleges is in a chaotic state today. At present the study of English is compulsory at college level. Many factors are blamed for the decreasing interest in English at college level especially at science stream level. At this stage, science stream students are not good at language study hence do not achieve high learning performance in the language skills. They cannot participate and concentrate upon class room teaching. However it is obvious that these students lack the motivation to learn. Many students won’t read, unless forced to and all their subjects are so equally stimulating that there is very little need for an imagination to use them. So the teacher of English has to tackle this issue and bring imagination back into its rightful place. He is not only to teach students genre of English but also to excite them about language and literature in general. The teacher of English has as such a more difficult and responsible role to play in science classes than other classes. The teaching of Science Fiction can be used to teach English, creative writing and more. As a literary genre, science fiction in teaching is now generally recognized as an effective means of science communication as well as literary skills. Among the fine arts, science fiction alone combines the interest of both science and the fiction. It injects an element of wonder and facilitates learning. It builds a bridge between the imagination of the students and science themes described in a work of art. Science fiction found in any story about robots, androids, computers, machines, superman and superwoman. Sci-fi in fact throws light on the scientific ideology and on the language aspects. So teaching science fiction not only creates on interest but also helps the pupils to learn English subject under favourable circumstances. Therefore
our mission is to excite them towards literature genre through science fiction is accomplished.

2) SF can be used for awakening interest in science as well as in social values. By using science fiction stories, the teacher can discuss cutting edge topics like ecology, environment study, global warming, pollution, as well as social values. The science stream students must be taught about social values and significance of society in relation to individual himself. At the same time Arts stream students must be taught physical sciences, technology, futurism and biological themes. SF study combines the qualities of literature of knowledge (science) and literature of power (Arts). Science fiction writers alarmed that the logic of machinery hasten the end and they seek consolation and self expression in the by-gone un-mechanized and pre-mechanical pages. They showed that machinery reduced drudgery accelerated production and raised the standard of living. But it has given rise to several distressing complications. In the increasingly science dominated world, science fiction alone enlightens us to some extent.

As Darko Suvin, the author of the chapter “On Teaching SF Critically” in Positions and Presuppositions in Science Fiction quotes, “The main and the highest goal of SF teaching- as of all teaching ought in our opinion, to be a specific form of civic education” (P.92). Suvin admits that science fiction as genre reflects on the aspirations of a society and foresee immediate concerns of a community through science.

3) The teaching of science fiction has shared that kind of all inclusiveness; it is used to teach all the social and physical sciences, history, ideas, futurology, religion, morality, ecology, reading skills, creative writing and more. In future the students of Arts stream have no fear of technical education nor feel inferiority complex in the midst of science stream students. The study of science fiction enables the pupil to view science as a social enterprise. The progress of science should check the evils in men. Unchecked scientific progress as it leads to blunting of the human qualities in a man. Man is an
integral part of a society. He ought to rise above animals and divert his energies for the betterment of the community science as a social enterprise. It insists on the importance of man in society, community, the state and the universe. The teaching of science fiction is not only motivating the student to learn science, but also helps to use science fiction in understanding fundamental issues that arise at the intersection of its study. The science of science fiction enables a layman to explore the exciting facts of science and to apply this knowledge to a richer understanding of the genre as a whole.

The present thesis tries to explore the very genre of ‘science fiction’ from the earliest time throughout the Modern age. It begins with an in-depth study of SF Novels. Reflecting kinds of great change at the heart of science fiction thing. as its subject and its teleology. The forth coming chapters attempt to explore the most popular modes of the genre as they are pondered and analyzed critically.

The introduction part introduces the genre clearly, and has attempted to discuss various definitions of SF, besides highlighting the role of science fiction in various facets of the present age of science and technology.

The First chapter entitled The development of science fiction from proto-science fiction to Modern age examines the development of science fiction from proto science fiction to Modern Age. Simultaneously, the chapter aims to analyze Major SF novels reflecting the specific theme of science background.

Chapter Two entitled Major thematic concerns in science fiction explores the new vantage point afforded fiction scientific and technological developments and recent runs through cyber novels by cyber park artists.

The Fourth Chapter entitled, The genesis of modern feminism in women science fiction and utopia, a study is made of woman’s scientific attitudes and her changing role in society in the chronological order. It goes an trace the origins of the proto science feminist movement, its various groups, the typical female role in utopian society.
The Final Part ‘Conclusion’ concludes various threads of thoughts that wreathed flowery band earlier and attempt a binding up of the dissertation’s argument.
Work Cited


