

Stages of Development and History of the English (Western) Postmodern Literary Movement

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ABSTRACT

We all know that the XX-XXI century is a century of drastic changes for all aspects, including literature, during these centuries, not only humanity and society, but also the mentality of all living beings changed, and this situation continues to this day. As a result, the variety of new currents, styles, and directions for fiction became a lively phenomenon, and the realist current, which is closer to reality than the themes of love, took the main place in fiction. On every front, idealism prevailed over artistry, and now attention to humanity has increased even more.

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Introduction. The leading idea in modern works focused on the expression of personality psychology, its essence, and the state of human life. Such a new direction corresponds to the term postmodernism when expressed in scientific language. Italian writer Umberto Eco, American writer John Barth, Serbian Milorad Pavic, Czech Milana Kundera are writers who reflect postmodernist ideas and principles in their works.

Although it emerged after the stream of modernism, postmodernism, which completely rejects modernism, is a very complex and comprehensive literary movement. Despite being a literary trend, postmodernism, like its predecessors, is a huge literary phenomenon that has had an impact on human life, thinking and worldview, and has caused many conflicts and disagreements. Theories and views of postmodernism continue to this day. It is understood that where there is disorder, conflict, problem, i.e. chaos, there will be postmodernism.

In the book "Dictionary of Literary Studies" this term is defined as follows: "Postmodernism is a creative method that appeared in the second half of the 20th century not only in literature, but also in all humanitarian fields, meaning postmodernisme in French. There are a number of concepts that form the main basis of this current, such as the deconstruction of Jacques Derrida's French poststructuralism, the "schizoanalysis" and "language of the unconscious" of Lacan's post-Freudianism, the "schizoanalysis" and "language of the unconscious" of Lacan, and the concepts of irony in semiotics by Umberto Eco.

There are different views on the emergence of postmodernism. Some scientists say that it was created in the 40s of the XX century by the work "Finnegan's Tale" created by J. Joyce, while a number of other specialists put forward the opinion that this movement began in the 70s and 80s of the XX century. The most interesting thing is that the term postmodernism appeared a long time ago, it was first used in P. Winnitz's "Crisis of European Culture". In addition, the term postmodernism was used in the work "The

study of history" created in 1947 as a term that expresses the end of Eurocentrism in world culture, that is, the recognition of the culture of the European peoples as the basis of universal culture. In the field of literary studies, the term postmodernism began to be used in the 20s and 30s of the XX century. means ultramodernistic creative and natural phenomena.

The development of the postmodern literary era, which appeared in English literature in the middle of the 20th century, as a result of abandoning the traditions of modernism and responding to a rapidly changing world, can be divided into several stages:

1. Influences before postmodernism (1940-1960s)

Before the formal emergence of postmodernism, writers such as Samuel Beckett and Jorge Luis Borges laid the groundwork with their experiments in narrative form and structure. The period after the Second World War raised doubts about the established truths and norms and created the ground for postmodern thinking.

2. Postmodern literature began to form, it focused on metafiction, pastiche and intertextuality. Famous authors include Thomas Pynchon, Don De Lillo, and John Barth. This period includes texts that playfully blur the lines between fiction and reality, often emphasizing the artificial nature of the stories.

3. The Rise of Cultural Criticism (1970s-1980s)

As the movement matured, postmodern literature began to engage more deeply with cultural criticism. Writers such as Salman Rushdie, Angela Carter, and Don De Lillo explored identity, colonialism, and social structures. It is famous for its fragmentation of traditional narratives.

4. Impact of technology and mass media (1980s-1990s)

With the rise of technology and mass media, postmodern literature began to narrate these elements. The works of authors such as David Foster Wallace and Janet Winterson reflected the effects of consumer culture and digital communication, which further complicated the relationship between text and reader.

5. Modern development (since the 2000s)

In the 21st century, postmodernism continues to evolve, embracing global perspectives and diverse voices. Writers such as Zadie Smith and Haruki Murakami mix elements of postmodernism with new thematic concerns such as globalization, multiculturalism, and environmental crises. This period is characterized by a further intertwining of genres and continued play with story structures.

The history and development of postmodernism in English literature shows the rich interaction of ideas and creative expressions. By questioning reality, narrative logos, and cultural norms, postmodern literature challenges readers to engage with the complexities of modern life and understanding. His legacy influences contemporary writers and ensures his relevance in the ongoing literary discourse.

Conclusion. A literary work, which is considered the product of any creative process, shines separately when facing each reader. The extent to which the work is classified depends on the artistic and aesthetic level of the reader. For this reason, the level of the author is important in modernism, but there is no author in postmodernism. Depending on the potential of the reader, the content of the work is understood in a different way. The examples of literature created in the postmodern period are the result of symbolic thinking of the world. That is why these works are also called works of signs. One of the main ideas of postmodernism is that anyone can create a work of art, it is not necessary to be a representative of a selected class or a person of special talent.

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