



MODERNISM SIGNIFIES SELFISM

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Abstract:

The terms “modernism”, “modernity” and the “modern” in relation to early twentieth century literature have both fascinated and baffled critical inquiry. Modernism refers to a global movement in society and culture that from the early decades of the twentieth century sought a new alignment with the experience and values of modern industrial life. Building on late nineteenth-century precedents, artists around the world used new imagery, materials and techniques to create artworks that they felt better reflected the realities and hopes of modern societies. The research aims at finding out the scientific materialistic and imperialistic enterprises of the previous centuries which had led to changed attitudes and sensibilities and to decline of faith had, by the end of the nineteenth century.

Introduction

Modernism as a literary movement is seen, in large part, as a reaction to the emergence of city life as a central force in society. Furthermore, an early attention to the object as freestanding became in latter modernism a preoccupation with form. The dyadic collapse of the distance between subject and object represented a movement from means to is, where Romanticism stressed the subjectively of experience, modernist writers were more actually conscious of the objectively of their surroundings. In modernism the object is, the language does not mean it is. this is a shift from an epistemological aesthetic to an ontological aesthetic or, in simpler terms, a shift from acknowledge based aesthetic to being based aesthetic. This shift is central to modernism

Modernism-Definitions:

- Virginia Wolf defines that the advent of Modernism is after 1910 by.
- According to Ezra Pound, Whatever you make it, make it in a new way-it becomes modern.
- Dictionary defines that a person who advocates or practices a departure from traditional styles or values is called modernism.
- In my perception, whatever is showcased in a new manner can be considered to be modern and that quality is named as modernism.



Modernism-Influences:

Modernism witnessed innumerable societal, political, economical and other aspects of changes tremendously due to various reasons. For instance, the invention of television and Railways for transport made people have a vast knowledge over different places, work culture; ideologies so on and so forth. Apart from the scientific inventions the technology advanced with introducing of innumerable weapons which are for the purpose of war. Due to this Industrial Revolution many missiles were also been invented.

The Cognitive Psychological analysis levels have been enriched among the people during this era. The concept of equality in gender, Gay and lesbian ideologies with Homo Sexuality thought have been opened up in the society with bold voice during this period. All these new-fangled concepts are showcased individual ideas in the literature as literature reflects the society. Apart from all the above, under the disguise of so called the race of development, there is a hidden quality prevailed everywhere that is nothing but the identity crisis and supremacy. Everywhere, the feel of supremacy and domination spread its wings and ultimately became the snake in the grass by developing the individualism in all perspectives which lead to selfism. Hence, the present paper focuses on the perceptions of selfism, some of its characteristics by considering few case studies as exemplifies below.

Modernism-Few Characteristics:

- The modernism consists of many characteristics such as:
- A. The concept of Equality.
- B. Belligerent nature.
- C. Mono-Megaism.
- D. Psycho-Anlaysis.
- E. Scientific Inventions.

The concept of Equality, Belligerent nature, Mono-Megaism, Psycho-Anlaysis, Scientific Inventions are resembled in the literature at the time of writings in modern English literature. Hence, the modern literature is considered to be from the year 1910. Where all the characteristics are reflected in the literary works respectively. Many written scripts like W.H.Auden's September-1,1939, Mathew Arnold's Dover Beach, Virginia Wolf's Dollaway, T.S. Eliot's The Waste Land, Harold Pinter's The Care Taker and Home Coming and D.H.Lawrence's Son's and Lovers and so on are the few examples. I have taken the above said modern concepts in modern literature with some literary texts for giving justification to my argument.

Hence, my paper focuses on how these characteristics reflect in the themes of the modern literature by taking some of the examples of the modernists writings.

Full Paper:



Dover Beach with Modernistic Characteristics:

Mathew Arnold's Dover Beach consists of four stanzas where the human being characteristics are completely shown in a misery and sad mood. Though the dreamland is narrated, it is not real. Arnold stressed upon that point that whatever appears with full of joy, proud and happiness is not the reality. The original reality is different which is superficial. In the 2nd and 3rd Stanzas of Arnold's Dover Beach, he tells about the nature to his lover by showing the beach, moon, the tides and the other esthetic natural elements, sarcastically saying that they are all temporal and not for assurance for the real purpose of life. He opines that the eternal beauty of life lies after death.

He also specifies the modern man to be true which is bitter to take to mind. However, he emphasizes to take the truth instead of false or illusions which appear to be land of dreams. He says that the Dover Beach when the modern man leaves the original life and lives in illusion life the tides move back from the bank and the bank will be left with only pebbles. In this way he symbolizes the illusion world of modern culture. The poet says that the world is full of variety which is full of illusion. He portrays the life has really neither joy, nor love, nor light nor certitude, nor peace nor help for pain. He wanted to specify that there is no certainty in happiness, joyfulness, except the death.

The waste land With Modernistic Characteristics:

The Waste Land, T. S. Eliot's masterpiece, which is a long, complex poem. His Waste Land deals about the individual psychological-cognitive levels and cultural crisis due to the development which came with the loss of moral and cultural identity after World War I. In the initial days of the poem, it was considered radically experimental due to its open statements and reality in the themes. The poem satires on the themes of vast and dissonant range of cultures and literatures. It also prophesies of the contemporary and upcoming abrupt and unannounced changes of various people, places and ideas. The Burial of the Dead, is the first section which introduces the diverse themes of disillusionment and despair in the society. A Game of Chess which is the second, part employs vignettes of several characters—alternating narrations—that address those themes experientially.

The Fire Sermon, which is the third section offers a philosophical meditation in relation to the imagery of death and views of self-denial in juxtaposition influenced by eastern religions. The fourth section, Death by Water, includes a brief lyrical petition, the culminating fifth section, "What the Thunder Said," concludes with an image of judgment. The Waste Land ends with a statement of Sanskrit words Shanthi, Shanthi, Shanthi which means peace which is the ultimate motto of a meaningful life by keeping aside of all the physical and temporal pleasures which allure the modern man.

Mandela's Ego With Modernistic Characteristics:

The protagonist of the work Mandela's Ego is a young Zulu boy named Dumisani is a playboy and strongly adhere to the earthly pleasures and spends his time on multiple affairs.



It happens to him to listen to the speech of Nelson Mandela. From then his confidence multiples and he started to involve in more sensual pleasures.

But when Mandela was sent to jail this young Zulu boy Dumisani he has deep impact. He lost all his confidence on him and becomes impotent. After Mandela is back from jail after 30 years of imprisonment, he again becomes potent which highlights on the and point of imitation and following. Hence, the fancy of imitation irrespective of good or bad evil or benevolent are the major influencing factors in modern world. The imitation has become the major part, though it is right or wrong. The priority s given to comfort levels than ethics. So the comforts of major groups are streamlined in the society though they are against to nature. For instance, gay, homo-sexual and lesbian practices.

Mrs.Dalloway with Modernistic Characteristics:

Clarissa Dalloway, the protagonist of this novel get ready to host a party that evening. She reminds her lover Peter and wonder about her choice of husband; she married the reliable Richard Dalloway instead of the enigmatic and demanding Peter Walsh. Peter reintroduces these conflicts by paying a visit on the day of the party. Septimus Warren Smith, a veteran of 1st world war suffers from traumatic disorder of losing his friend Evans in the war. His wife Lucrezia, where Peter Walsh observes and takes him to a psychiatrist. He commits suicide by jumping out of a window with that feel.

Clarissa's party in the evening is a slow success. It is attended by most of the characters she has met in the book, including people from her past. She hears about Septimus' suicide at the party and gradually comes to admire this stranger's act, which she considers an effort to preserve the purity of his happiness. Her mind vacillates in between past and present and she could not be really happy with all this uncertainty which generally happening at present in every man's life. Man is confining his pleasures to temporal and luxurious elements rather than the spiritual and philosophical concerns. The same is showcased in this novel by Wolf.

Findings:

Based on the observations of the above concepts, my findings are the human beings are running under the name of a race which is a curse in disguise by losing the values, ethics and morals. The pitiable condition of the modern world has become like that if a major group of people practice a task which is against to nature or law of spirituality, due to its following, craze or mania that practice becomes practicable and acceptable by the society by keeping aside of values and ethics.

In modern era, the situations are morphemed in such a way that if a huge group of fools call a pig as donkey due to their innocence their word is becoming final as their number is major, and the minor number intellectuals who know that the animal is pig even if they raise their voice against it, no body considers the reality, instead they go with the opinion of major which is false and illusion out of their innocence. This happens at present world under the veil of development.

Conclusions:

Anveshana's International Journal Of Research In Education, Literature, Psychology And
Library Sciences

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Hence, in my conclusions, I would like to add such points as Mathew Arnold stated, the things which we see are not really permanent and true. The reality lies in the hidden manner. So every human being must adhere to values, ethics, morals and then the reality will be visible to them. It is a herculean task to overcome the comments of the major group of people who are blind of acknowledging the values and ethics. There are some cases where the major try to deviate the minor groups who are going on the right track. They allure as Arnold & Keats state in their works. But one should not leave the virtue, good and morals. Every one should remember the quote “*Dharmo Rakshathi Rakshithaha*” which means if you protect the good the good will protect you which leads to the real concept of *Shanthy shanthy shanthy* as stated by Keats in Waste Land.

References:

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About the Author:

Dr.A. Pavani Sasidhar has pursued her P.hD and M. Phil. from Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur. She also did her PGCTE & PGDTE from English & Foreign Language University, Hyderabad. So far, she has 18 years of teaching. **At present she has been rendering her services as Assistant Professor at K L Deemed to be University, Vaddeswaram, Guntur.** She has published fourteen articles in both National and International journals and attended twenty National and International conferences.