

A Brief Analysis of Post Modern Literature

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Abstract

Post Modernism relates to the deepest aspects of our life, postmodern approaches antagonize methodological conventions. It challenges established structures and belief systems in society and culture from 1960s. It embraces complex and often contradictory layers of appreciation. It introduced a new wave of freedom and a break from established rules and regulations.

Keywords: Post Modernism, society, culture, beliefs, rules.

Introduction:

Post modernism is a word, a concept that has been developed in order to define culture after modernism, with the 'prefix' 'post', simply indicating the going beyond of modernism. But now that culture is identified, defined and discussed, remains open to interpretation. For some, the direction of the debate, and the answer to the question of what Postmodernism is, will be that there is no such thing while, for others, the relevance of the term will be recognized but still left in a problematic, unresolved state. Of those who take a positive view of Post modernism there may be a suggestion of a certain consensus, there are certainly a number of recurring factors in most discussions of post modernism, fragmentation, pluralism, difference- but there will still be divergences, variations of subject matter and interpretation. Post Modernism is considered as a sharp reaction against the predominance of modernism. Modernism was the product of the industrial era when the traditional method of explanation and expression got replaced by 'reason' and 'science'. The fundamental attributes of reason and science are to formulate grand narratives and theories. Post modernism emerged as a radical alternative to modernity. It argues that modernism is too centralized and monolithic in nature and so it suppresses the minor identities and voices.

Post modernism is a style of thought which is suspicious of classical notions of truth, reason, identity and objectivity, of the ideas of universal progress or emancipation, of single frameworks, grand narratives or ultimate grounds of explanation.

Against these enlightenment norms, it sees the world as contingent, unground, diverse, unstable, and indeterminate, a set of disunited cultures or interpretations which breed a degree of skepticism about the objectivity of truth, history and norms, the governance of nature and the coherence of identities. In order to understand the essence of postmodernism, it is necessary to have a look at the original writings.

Culture of Post Modernism

Post Modern culture is a far reaching term describing a range of activities, events and perspectives relating to art, architecture, the humanities and the social sciences beginning in the second half of the twentieth century. In contrast to modern culture, with its emphasis on social progress, coherence, universality, postmodern culture represents instances of dramatic historical and ideological change in

which modernist narratives of progress and social holism are viewed as incomplete, elastic and contradictory. In conjunction with the end of modernist progress narratives, an insistence on coherence gives way to diversity and the dominance of universality is subverted by difference within a postmodern condition. Postmodern culture stands for more than the current state of society.

The most visible signs of postmodern culture appear in art, architecture, film, music and literature after the 1950s. The most prominent stylistic features that unite these diverse forums are pastiche, non representationalism, and non-linearity. In the art and architecture of postmodern culture, collage and historical eclecticism are emphasized.

In film, literature and music representative of postmodern culture there is an emphasis on non-linearity, parody and pastiche. Postmodern film, such as the Coen brothers 'Blood Simple or forgo, disrupt narrative timelines and emphasize the work of parody.

While postmodern culture can be illuminated by reference to specific cultural products, it is important to keep in mind the underlying philosophical logic driving the phenomenon. Postmodern culture, as a valorization of the multiplicity found in little narratives, exhibits anti modernist tendencies, with an art and politics rejecting calls to narrative totalization.

Culturally –liberated people are self-expressive and creative. The quintessence of liberation in the postmodern era is through the writing. Opportunities for self-expression are proliferating through the media on the net like Word press, BlogSpot and Twitter.

Modernity first came into being with the Renaissance. Modernity implies the progressive economic and administrative rationalization and differentiation of the social world.

Postmodernity is the state or condition of being postmodern. Logically post modernism literally means “after modernity”. It refers to the incipient or actual dissolution of those social forms associated with modernity.

Postmodernity concentrates on the tensions of difference and similarity excepting from the process of globalization and capitalism: the accelerating circulation of people, the increasingly dense and frequent cross-cultural interactions, and the unavoidable intersections of local and global knowledge. Some social critics have attempted to explain the postmodern condition in terms of the historical and social milieu which spawned it.

Modernization is often used to refer to the stages of social development which are based upon industrialization. Modernization is a diverse unity of socio-economic changes generated by scientific and technological discoveries and innovations. Modernism should be considered distinct from the concept of ‘modernity’.

One of the most ambiguous terminology and exciting the period of Postmodernism, is the term ‘postmodernism’ itself, critics and scholars disagree about it, of postmodernism, due to the multiplicity of its concepts and its implications from critic to author.

Post modernism has appeared in a complex political circumstances, after the end of World War II, especially in the context of the Cold War and the spread of nuclear weapons, and the declaration of the birth of human rights and the emergence of theater of the absurd, and the emergence of philosophies irrationality such as surrealism, existentialism and the absurdism, nihilism, moreover, the deconstruction was expressing president to move from the stage of modernism to postmodernism.

Post modernism associated with historic and contextual reference and the evolution of western capitalism postmodern socially, economically, politically and culturally. Post modernism has appeared

firstly in the field of painting, architecture and civil engineering, before moving to philosophy, literature, art, technology and rest of the humanities and knowledge.

What is Post Modernism?

Post Modernism is a word, a concept that has been developed in order to define culture after modernism, with the 'prefix' 'post' simply indicating the going beyond of modernism. But now that culture is identified, defined and discussed remains open to interpretation. For some, the direction of the debate, and the answer to the question of what postmodernism is, will be that there is no such thing while, for others, the relevance of the term will be recognized but still left in a rather problematic, unresolved state. Of those who take a positive view of postmodernism there may be a suggestion of a certain consensus, there are certainly a number of recurring factors in most discussions of post modernism- fragmentation, pluralism, difference- but there will still be divergences, variations of subject matter and integration.

Post Modernism is considered as a sharp reaction against the predominance of modernism. Modernism was the product of the industrial era when the traditional method of explanation and expression got replaced by 'reason' and 'science'. The fundamental attributes of reason and science are to formulate grand narratives and theories. Post modernism emerged as a radical alternative to modernity. It argues that modernism is too centralized and monolithic in nature and so it suppresses the minor identities and voices.

Postmodernism is a style of thought which is suspicious of classical notions of truth, reason, reason, identity and objectivity, of the ideas of universal progress or emancipation, of simple frameworks, grand narratives or ultimate grounds of explanation.

Against these enlightenment norms, it sees the world as contingent, unground diverse, unstable, indeterminate, a set of disunited cultures or interpretations which breed a degree of skepticism about the objectivity of truth, history and norms, the givenness of natures and the coherence of identities. In order to understand the essence of postmodernism, it is necessary to have a look at the original writings.

Characteristics:

Postmodern literature includes a diverse group of writers who explore themes of fragmentation, metafiction and a questioning of grand narratives. Some prominent examples include Thomas Pynchon, Samuel Beckett, Kurt Vonnegut, Italo Calvino. These authors often utilize techniques like intertextuality, Pastiche and unreliable narrators to challenge traditional conventions and reflect on the complexities of the postmodern condition.

Key characteristics of Postmodern Literature:

Metafiction: - Authors openly acknowledge the functionality of their work, often direct address to the reader or by including themselves as characters.

Pastiche: - Imitation or parody of other styles and genres, often combined in unexpected ways.

Intertextuality:- Allusions to and borrowings from other texts, blurring the lines between different works and challenging notions of originality.

Fragmentation:- Rejection of traditional linear narratives in favor disjointed, non-chronological structures.

Magical Realism:- Incorporation of fantastical or supernatural elements into realistic settings.

Skepticism towards Grand Narratives:- A questioning of overarching systems of meaning and belief, including religious, political and philosophical systems.

Absurdity: - This is when things happen in the story that just doesn't make sense. It's like the author is reminding us that this is all make believe.

Parody: - This is when we an author makes fun of other works of literature or of common literary conventions.

Conclusion

In examining the intricate features of postmodern literature, this research has highlighted how fragmentation, metafiction, intertextuality, irony, and pastiche challenge traditional literary conventions. Postmodern writers such as Thomas Pynchon, Don Delillo and Margret Atwood deconstruct reality and question the notion of objective truth, revealing literature as a self-aware construct. This literary movement not only mirrors the uncertainties and complexities of the postmodern world but also engages the reader in active interpretation.

The significance of postmodernism lies in its ability to reflect cultural, philosophical, and social transformations of the late 20th century. As boundaries between high and low art blur and narrative becomes decentralized, postmodern literature compels us to rethink authorship, meaning and identity.

While some critics argue that postmodernism leads to nihilism or meaninglessness, it can also be seen as an open-ended, pluralistic response to an increasingly complex world. Further research may explore how postmodern themes continue to evolve in the digital age and how contemporary authors carry forward or challenge its legacy.