



MODERNISM IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

Olimova Dilorom Odilovna

MA student of English literature department,
Bukhara State University

Khamdamova Sitora Bakhshilloyevna

Teacher at English literature department,
Bukhara State University

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7869682>

Abstract. This article discusses the main features of modernism in English literature of the XX century. The study is based on its main characteristic features.

Keywords: Modernism, poetry, English poetry, the twentieth century English poets.

Introduction. Modernism in literature is a phenomenon in the literature of the late XIX and early XX centuries, characterized by a departure from the classical novel in favor of the search for a new style and a radical revision of literary forms. It is part of the general trend in art - modernism (from Latin modernus - "modern, recent"). The period of modernism is considered to have ended by the end of the 1930s. Modernism has been replaced by postmodernism.

Modernism in literature has become a logical result of the development of artistic consciousness and the transition from the author's classical perception of the world to the modernist one. Instead of creating its own world, offering the reader ready-made concepts, the literature of modernism becomes a pure reflection of reality or its complete opposite. The author ceases to be the bearer of absolute truth and begins to demonstrate its relativity. As a result, the integrity of the world of the work collapses: the linear narrative is replaced by a fragmentary one, fragmented into small episodes and presented through several heroes who even have an opposite view of the events and facts presented.

Main part. Modernism in literature manifested itself in new directions: symbolism, acmeism, futurism, expressionism, surrealism, but it also existed outside of them. Moreover, often all these (except for a certain, later layer of symbolism) modernist trends somewhat distance themselves from modernism. Simultaneously, realistic literature was rethought. A style called "stream of consciousness" appeared, characterized by a deep penetration into the inner world of the characters. An important place in the literature of modernism is occupied by the theme of understanding the war, the lost generation.

Modernism in literature originates on the eve of the First World War and reaches its peak in the twenties simultaneously in all countries of Western





Europe and in America. Modernism is an international phenomenon, consisting of different schools (Imagism, Dadaism, Expressionism, Constructivism, Surrealism, etc.). This is a revolution in literature, the participants of which announced a break not only with the tradition of realistic plausibility, but also with the Western cultural and literary tradition in general.

The generation of the first modernists keenly felt the exhaustion of the forms of realistic narrative, their aesthetic fatigue. For modernists, the concept of "realism" meant the absence of an effort to independently comprehend the world, the mechanistic nature of creativity, superficiality, the boredom of vague descriptions - an interest in a button on a character's coat, and not in his state of mind. Modernists above all put the value of an individual artistic vision of the world; the artistic worlds they create are uniquely dissimilar to each other, each one bears the stamp of a bright creative individuality. It fell to them to live in a period when the values of traditional humanistic culture collapsed - "freedom" meant very different things in Western democracies and in totalitarian states; the bloody massacre of the First World War, in which weapons of mass destruction were used for the first time, showed the true price of human life for the modern world; the humanistic ban on pain, on physical and spiritual violence was replaced by the practice of mass executions and concentration camps. Modernism is the art of a dehumanized era.

Modernists conceive of human existence as a brief, fragile moment; the subject may or may not be aware of the tragedy, the frailty of our absurd world, and the artist's job is to show the horror, grandeur and beauty that are contained in spite of everything in the moments of earthly existence. Social problems, which played such an important role in the realism of the 19th century, are given indirectly in modernism, as an inseparable part of a holistic portrait of the individual. The main sphere of interest of modernists is the image of the relationship between the conscious and the unconscious in a person, the mechanisms of his perceptions, and the whimsical work of memory. The modernist hero is taken, as a rule, in the whole integrity of his experiences, his subjective being, although the very scale of his life can be small, insignificant.

The great D. Joyce, W. Wolfe, David Lawrence, Thomas Eliot and others are referred to the modernists of England, Thomas Stearns Eliot is recognized as the meter of modernism in poetry. Each of them contributed to the renewal and development of English literature. In the first quarter of the XX century. these writers declared themselves to be bold innovators and experimenters in fiction, poetry, and literary criticism.





The name of the Anglo-Irish writer James Joyce is associated with the “stream of consciousness” school. The “stream of consciousness” as a writing technique is an illogical internal monologue that reproduces the chaos of thoughts and experiences, the smallest movements of consciousness. This is a free associative flow of thoughts in the sequence in which they arise, interrupt each other and are crowded by illogical heaps. For the first time this term – “stream of consciousness” - appeared in the works of William James, where he developed the idea that consciousness “is not a chain where all the links are connected in series, but a river”.

Literary modernism refers to innovative authors who try to create and use new approach in every work.

Of the famous authors James Joyce is the greatest novelist. He used the stream of consciousness technique in his masterpiece work in “Ulysses”. Readers can understand what is going on inside the head of any character and how he perceives the world instead of what is objectively happening.

“The Figure in the carpet” by Henry James it is considered partly mystery, partly story which all characters keep a secret.

“Mrs Dalloway” novel which was written by Virginia Woolf is set over a course of one day, in June 1923. The book is called the masterpiece of the writer. Influenced by J. Joyce she wrote her another novel “To the Lighthouse”.

Katherine Mansfield is the most popular short story writer left a number of classical stories which were written in a spare, simple style with understandable words. “The tiredness of Rosabell”, “The garden party”, “The fly”, “The child who was tired”, “Susannah”, “Prelude” are her famous works. She highly contributed to the development of short stories in English literature.

Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness. The book examines the evils and conquers of Belgian imperialism in Africa, also interrogates the very nature of storytelling itself-and all that comes with it, whether or not truth, trust, the reliability of language to convey one’s experiences and feelings.

Another famous representative modernist writer is Franz Kafka, who is the author of “The Metamorphos”, “The judgement”, “The trial”, “America”. His works are worth reading because it helps readers know where to start. All his works are a good introduction to the scope of Kafka’s style; quirky and fantastic, confronting and raw, heart-breaking and subtle.

In conclusion we can say that Modernism is considered as quite unique and complex movement in almost all the creative areas. It began at the end of the XIX century. During this period literature got the inception of greatest renaissance of





XX century. The foundation of modernism lies in the theory of psycho-analysis and irrational philosophy. One of the main characteristics of modern period is "the dehumanization of art". Some other crucial themes of modernism involves alienated, ill and distorted relation between man and man, man and his own self, man and society and most importantly between man and nature.

References:

1. Agenosov V.V. History of Russian Literature Abroad. The first wave: a textbook for universities. – 2020. – 365 p.
2. Bakhshilloyevna, Khamdamova Sitora. "FORMATION OF MODERN ENGLISH POETRY IN THE LATE XIX AND EARLY XX CENTURIES." Euro-Asia Conferences. Vol. 1. No. 1. 2021.
3. Ionkis G.E. English Poetry of the 20th Century, 1917-1945: Textbook for Pedagogical Institutes. —Moscow: Higher School, 1980.
4. Olimova Dilorom Odilovna, and Khamdamova Sitora Bakhshilloyevna. "PECULIAR FEATURES OF DYLAN THOMAS POETRY". British Journal of Global Ecology and Sustainable Development, vol. 15, Apr. 2023, pp. 45-48.
5. Khajieva, Feruza Melsovna. "Similes in novel The last station" by jay parini and their function." Міжнародний науковий журнал Інтернаука 1 (1) (2017): 131-133.
6. Tolmachev V.M. Foreign literature of the XX century in 2 vols. Vol. 1. The first half of the XX century: a textbook for secondary vocational education Moscow: Yurayt Publishing House, 2020. - 430 p.
7. J. H. Dettmar «Modernism» in The Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literature ed. by David Scott Kastan. Oxford University Press, 2006.
8. Khamdamova, Sitora B. "HARMONY OF TRADITION AND NOVELTY IN ENGLISH POETRY." CURRENT RESEARCH JOURNAL OF PHILOLOGICAL SCIENCES (2767-3758) 3.05 (2022): 69-72.
9. Khamdamova, Sitora Bakhshilloyevna. "Mythological Themes and Motives in William Butler Yeats' Poetry." Spanish Journal of Innovation and Integrity 6 (2022): 147-150.
10. Хамдамова, Ситора Бахшилловна. "MODERNISM IN WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS' POETRY." МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ ЖУРНАЛ ИСКУССТВО СЛОВА 3.3 (2020).

