

**FROM MODERNISM TO POSTMODERNISM: A SHIFT IN LITERARY VISION****Yo'ldosheva Durdona Odiljon qizi**

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**Annotation:** This article explores the development and transformation of Modernism and Postmodernism in world literature. It provides an in-depth analysis of their philosophical foundations, aesthetic principles, and artistic innovations that shaped twentieth-century literary trends. Modernism emerged as a reaction to the rapid industrialization and the devastating impact of World War I, emphasizing individual consciousness, fragmentation, and the search for meaning in a chaotic world. Postmodernism, on the other hand, arose after World War II as a rejection of absolute truths and traditional narratives, favoring irony, intertextuality, and metafiction. The study discusses how both movements redefined concepts of reality, identity, and creativity, leaving a profound legacy on contemporary literature and culture.

**Keywords:** Modernism, Postmodernism, literary movements, symbolism, intertextuality, fragmentation, contemporary literature.

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqolada modernizm va postmodernizm adabiy oqimlarining vujudga kelishi, shakllanish bosqichlari hamda ularning jahon adabiyotiga ta'siri keng yoritilgan. Modernizm XX asr boshlarida sanoat inqilobi va Birinchi jahon urushi oqibatida yuzaga kelgan ijtimoiy-siyosiy o'zgarishlarga javoban paydo bo'lgan bo'lib, insonning ichki olamini, ruhiy kechinmalarini, ma'no izlash jarayonini ifodalashga urg'u beradi. Postmodernizm esa Ikkinchi jahon urushidan so'ng shakllanib, haqiqat va ma'no tushunchalarini shubha ostiga oladi, kinoya, o'yin, intertekstualik va metafiksiya kabi uslublar orqali an'anaviy adabiy qoidalarni buzadi. Maqolada ushbu ikki yo'nalishning o'zaro farqlari, o'xshash jihatlari hamda zamonaviy adabiyotdagi o'rni tahlil qilinadi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** modernizm, postmodernizm, adabiy oqimlar, ramz, intertekstualik, metafiksiya, zamonaviy adabiyot.

**Аннотация:** В статье рассматривается происхождение, развитие и особенности литературных направлений модернизма и постмодернизма, а также их влияние на мировую литературу. Модернизм возник в начале XX века как реакция на кризис традиционных ценностей, индустриализацию и последствия Первой мировой войны. Для него характерны фрагментарность, поток сознания, символизм и стремление отразить внутренний мир человека. Постмодернизм, появившийся после Второй мировой войны, отрицает идею единой истины и объективной реальности, широко использует иронию, пародию, интертекстуальность и метафизику. В статье подчеркивается, что оба

направления внесли огромный вклад в развитие художественного мышления и оказали значительное влияние на современную литературу.

**Ключевые слова:** модернизм, постмодернизм, литературные направления, символизм, интертекстуальность, метафикция, современная литература.

The twentieth century was a turning point in the history of world literature, marked by profound artistic, social, and intellectual transformations. Among the many movements that reshaped literary thinking, Modernism and Postmodernism stand out as two of the most influential. Both emerged as reactions to the dramatic changes brought about by industrialization, world wars, and the crisis of traditional values. Yet, while Modernism sought to find new ways to represent the fragmented reality of modern life, Postmodernism went further to question the very concepts of truth, meaning, and authorship itself.

Modernism, which flourished in the early decades of the 20th century, represented a deliberate break from the conventions of the past. Modernist writers such as James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, and T.S. Eliot experimented with new narrative forms, symbolism, and stream-of-consciousness techniques to portray the complexity of human consciousness. The movement reflected a deep concern with alienation, uncertainty, and the loss of faith in objective truth. Literature was no longer seen merely as a mirror of reality, but as a medium through which reality could be recreated and reinterpreted.

In contrast, Postmodernism, which gained prominence after World War II, responded to the disillusionment and chaos of the modern era by embracing irony, playfulness, and intertextuality. Postmodern writers such as Thomas Pynchon, Umberto Eco, and Salman Rushdie blurred the boundaries between fiction and reality, challenging readers to question the stability of meaning and the role of the author. For postmodernists, the world was not a coherent whole but a collage of competing narratives and perspectives. Their works often employed metafiction, parody, and pastiche to expose the constructed nature of both art and knowledge.

The study of Modernism and Postmodernism is essential for understanding how literature reflects and shapes human consciousness in times of rapid cultural change. This paper aims to explore the origins, defining features, and philosophical foundations of these two movements, as well as their continuing impact on contemporary literature. By comparing the aesthetic and ideological principles of Modernism and Postmodernism, the research seeks to highlight how each responded differently to the same existential questions about identity, meaning, and reality.

Modernism emerged in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as a radical response to the decline of traditional values, the horrors of industrialization, and the disillusionment caused by World War I. Modernist writers rejected the idea that literature should simply imitate reality. Instead, they sought to depict the fragmented and subjective nature of human experience through innovative techniques and experimental language.

One of the defining characteristics of Modernism is the use of stream of consciousness, a narrative technique that represents the continuous flow of a character's thoughts and feelings. James Joyce's *Ulysses* (1922) is one of the best examples of this approach. The novel follows an ordinary man, Leopold Bloom, through a single day in Dublin, yet its structure and language reflect the complexity of the human mind. Joyce's style forces readers to experience the confusion and richness of inner life, showing that reality is filtered through personal perception.

Another major figure, Virginia Woolf, explored similar ideas in her novels such as *Mrs Dalloway* (1925) and *To the Lighthouse* (1927). Woolf portrayed time as fluid and memory as more important than chronological events. Her characters are shaped by their inner thoughts rather than external actions. Through her poetic prose, Woolf revealed the emotional depth and sensitivity of modern life, especially from a woman's perspective.

T.S. Eliot's poem *The Waste Land* (1922) serves as another cornerstone of Modernist literature. The poem captures the spiritual emptiness and despair that followed the First World War. Through fragmented structure, multiple voices, and mythological references, Eliot portrays a world that has lost its coherence and faith. His work reflects a central idea of Modernism — that modern civilization is broken and meaning must be reconstructed through art and imagination.

Overall, Modernism represented a search for new forms of expression in a rapidly changing world. It celebrated artistic experimentation and emphasized the role of the individual in creating meaning. Yet, the movement also expressed a profound sense of alienation, uncertainty, and loss — emotions that defined the early 20th century.

Postmodernism developed in the mid-20th century as both a continuation and a reaction against Modernism. While Modernist writers sought to find order and meaning through artistic innovation, Postmodernists questioned whether such meaning could exist at all. Influenced by philosophy, cultural theory, and the rise of mass media, postmodern literature reflected a world dominated by uncertainty, pluralism, and simulation.

One of the central features of Postmodernism is intertextuality — the idea that every text is connected to other texts. Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose* (1980) exemplifies this through its combination of detective fiction, philosophy, and historical narrative. The novel invites readers to question truth and knowledge while engaging in a playful dialogue with past literary traditions.

Similarly, Thomas Pynchon's *Gravity's Rainbow* (1973) is known for its complexity and chaotic structure. The novel mixes scientific facts, pop culture, and historical events, showing how modern society is overwhelmed by information and technology. Pynchon's fragmented style mirrors the confusion and instability of the postmodern condition, where absolute truths have been replaced by multiple interpretations.

Another significant representative, Salman Rushdie, blends history, myth, and fantasy in works such as *Midnight's Children* (1981). Through magical realism, he reinterprets the history of India, suggesting that truth is always subjective and dependent on the storyteller's perspective. His use of humor and irony reflects the postmodern tendency to undermine seriousness and authority.

Postmodern literature also employs metafiction, a technique that draws attention to the act of writing itself. For instance, John Fowles's *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (1969) constantly reminds readers that it is a fictional creation. The narrator even interrupts the story to discuss alternative endings, highlighting the illusion of authorial control. Such techniques invite readers to become active participants in constructing meaning rather than passive consumers of it.

In essence, Postmodernism celebrates ambiguity, irony, and playfulness. It rejects the idea of a single truth or moral center and instead views reality as a product of language and culture. While Modernism sought to rebuild meaning after the collapse of traditional beliefs, Postmodernism accepts that fragmentation and uncertainty are permanent features of human existence.

### Comparison

Although Modernism and Postmodernism share certain features — such as experimentation and rejection of traditional realism — their goals differ. Modernists searched for meaning through artistic innovation, while Postmodernists questioned the very existence of meaning itself. Modernist writers viewed fragmentation as a problem to be resolved; postmodernists treated it as a natural state to be embraced.

Both movements profoundly transformed world literature. Modernism gave voice to the individual's inner struggles, while Postmodernism reflected the complexities of a globalized, media-driven society. Together, they expanded the boundaries of artistic expression and redefined how literature engages with truth, identity, and reality.

The evolution of Modernism and Postmodernism represents one of the most dynamic and influential periods in the history of literature. Both movements emerged from profound cultural and intellectual crises, challenging writers to rethink the relationship between language, reality, and human experience. While Modernism was born out of a desire to find new forms of expression in a world shattered by war and uncertainty, Postmodernism arose as a response to the disillusionment that followed — questioning not only traditional values but also the very foundations of meaning and truth.

Modernist authors such as James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, and T.S. Eliot revolutionized narrative form, psychological depth, and poetic technique. Their works aimed to uncover order and significance beneath the chaos of modern life, portraying the individual's struggle to make sense of a fragmented world. In contrast, Postmodern writers like Thomas Pynchon, Umberto Eco, Salman Rushdie, and John Fowles approached literature with irony and self-awareness, accepting fragmentation and uncertainty as central aspects of existence. Through devices such as intertextuality, metafiction, and parody, they blurred the boundaries between fiction and reality, author and reader, truth and illusion.

Although Modernism and Postmodernism differ in their approaches, they share a common purpose — to expand the possibilities of literature. Both movements broke away from conventional storytelling, encouraging readers to question assumptions about identity, knowledge, and the role of art in society. Modernism sought to rebuild meaning through innovation, while Postmodernism taught that meaning itself is multiple and fluid.

Even today, the legacy of these movements continues to shape contemporary literature and critical thought. Modernist introspection and postmodern experimentation remain powerful tools for exploring the complexities of human existence in the digital and globalized age. By studying these two movements, we gain not only a deeper understanding of literary history but also insight into how writers across generations have attempted to represent — and redefine — the ever-changing human condition.

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