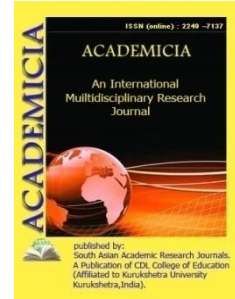




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ANALYSIS OF THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN REALISM AND MODERNISM IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

After World War I, America and its writers were in a state of confusion at the impact of the war on society. America was in need of literature that would explain what was happening now and what would happen next. In this situation, American writers referred to the genre currently known as Modernism. After World War I, Modernism embodied 19th-century realism and naturalism, and clearly reflected the post-war American people and their way of life. This article seeks to prove this point and to illustrate the uniqueness of the genres in question. It also explores the differences and similarities between these two literary currents.

KEYWORDS: *Realism, Modernism, Naturalism, Symbol, Catalyst, Reality, Primitivism*

INTRODUCTION

Realism Modernism not only reflected the lives of the American people after the First World War, but also sought to address the problems of the post-war suffering population (Eliot, p. 705).

The end of the 19th century witnessed the writers of the Realism movement expressing life and its hardships with great precision. It can be said that realists “tried to give a true picture of modern life” (Elliott p. 502). They tried to cover not only one aspect of life, but all the classes and classes of America, their life principles, their daily way of life. The realists created these images of America by combining “observations and details from documents ...” to “approach the norm of experience ...”. Along with this technique, realists compared “objective or absolute existence” in America to “generally accepted facts or observed life facts” (Harvey, p. 12). In other words, realists looked at American society objectively, reflecting aspects of its existence that were common to the general realities. This realistic movement in American culture has evolved as a result of many changes and transitions. In the late 1800s, the United States was

experiencing “rapid growth and change” as a result of its ever-changing economy, society, and culture, as well as an overpopulation of immigrants.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Realists such as Henry James and William Dean Howells, some of the most prolific artists of the nineteenth century, were able to accurately depict the changes in American life using the usual realistic methods. William Dean Howells, in opposition to idealization, made his “ridiculous critique of society” by comparing American culture with the culture of other countries (Bradley, p. 114). Howells, in his "satirical" works, was able to accurately describe the changes taking place in society at the same time, while criticizing the American way of life and morality. He tried to address the negative consequences that change was having on America through criticism. (Elliott 505). In his view, novels “should show life as it is, not as it is” (American Literature Compton’s). In the creative process, Howells demonstrated how his heroes nurtured and shaped life, their goals and dreams. Instead of creating a strong plot, he tried to show that life is full of goodness, not cruelty, by creating strong heroes, and thereby inspire students to goodness.

In contrast, Henry James assessed the world in terms of "... society and history proposed ..." (Eliot, p. 704). He also separated himself from America in order to create an objective view of the American social structure as a “spectator and analyst, not a writer” (Spiller, p. 169). He created by reflecting the perspectives of nations — Americans and Europeans — by comparing their principles against each other. By comparing social values and personal views, he tried to answer questions such as what moves and inspires Americans of different classes (Bradley, p. 1143). In general, these writers went out of their way to portray America fairly, to reflect their critical thinking in order to encourage change.

Naturalism also developed almost in the same way as Realism, but it is a genre that aims to find the realities of life. Naturalists, on the other hand, are ultra-realists, expressing the depraved aspects of life and the extent to which “the environment has deprived people of a sense of responsibility” (Elliott, p. 514). The writers of Literary Naturalism studied humanity objectively, as if a scientist had studied a phenomenon. In depicting ugliness and cruelty, the authors refrained from preaching about heroes; on the contrary, it drew the reader's attention to the conclusion about them.

In general, these authors preferred a pessimistic view to describe life based on the negative part of life. In describing society directly, the Naturalists described in detail that human life would be ruined without any emotion at all. To this end, they used nature as a symbol for society and wrote more openly about society’s problems. The literature of naturalism, like Realism, served as a catalyst for change, but more like propaganda.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Although the transition from Realism / Naturalism to Modernism took place in only twenty years, it can be said that this trend has lasted a long time in terms of how much society has changed. The rapid changes in American society mentioned above and America’s connection to the world have led to a number of upheavals in the country. After World War I, American society was divided and neutral. It required the creation of a new era of literary expression to manage and document the “fear of isolation”, “corruption” and “protest” (Bradley pp. 1339-1340) that resulted from the war. The authors tried to explain to their contemporaries and respond

to “social and moral confusion” (p. 1340). World War II led to a decline in the number of individuals who provided a strong foundation for America’s major institutions (p. 1339). The war destroyed the identity of the individual and society as a whole. Man’s personality became an insignificant concept, “... the scale of modern events is so great that it opposes humanity ...” forcing people to forget about their identities.

After World War I, authors created new literature that “violated the usual prohibitions expressed physically and psychologically”. (Bradley, p. 1339) This was the beginning of modernism. Modernism, though strongly influenced by realism and often referred to as the expansion of naturalistic values, was a response to America’s new problems.

Although modernism embraced the scientific aspects of naturalism, it also promoted psychological observations of personality and culture. By being so new and intense, modernism was able to unite America after the crisis (1340-1337). Modernism was based on “the study of the spiritual nature of man and the study of his values in society” (1337). Like realism, modernists focused on change in society (Elliott, p. 699) and used symbolism to describe their works of art (Bradley, p. 1340). Modernist writers, like most Americans, marveled at the devastating power of the war against humanity.

Analysis and results

Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, and F. Writers such as Scott Fitzgerald ushered in a period of modernist awakening using methods of realism and naturalism. In Hemingway's *The Sun Is Still Rising*, the principle of "being forced to distance oneself from society by the demands of the times" is elaborated (Spiller p. 271). An example of this is the depiction of a young boy who was cut off from society because of his “... loss of faith and hope ...” because of his involvement in World War I (Hart, p. 284). Hemingway's earlier works can be called "characteristic of naturalism" (Bradley, p. 1339). This can be seen in his reflection in his "presentation of a firm relationship between environment and destiny ..." (p. 1339). Hemingway later described in his work once again a deviation from the path of society. This time in the spirit of the realist Henry James, he isolated himself from American society in order to evaluate society more objectively. In his novel *The Green Valleys of Africa*, Hemingway compares American culture with other cultures. Sometimes Hemingway "... seems more modern realist ..." (Spiller Lit His 1300 p.).

William Faulkner, author of the most important books of the twentieth century, also emphasizes the connection between the environment and destiny. He combined naturalism and primitivism to create a clear picture (creating a reality or texts that are sometimes difficult to understand to create a clearer picture), “... different, rich and poor, evil and good, slaves and free people are sharply emphasized in the writer’s works "(" Faulkner "Compton) This idea, like that of the realist James, gives the reader a complete picture of society.

F. Scott Fitzgerald’s novels and short stories are best known for depicting the “lost generation” of the post-World War I era. Faulkner’s moral values were “social, not personal” (Fitzgerald Compton). The writer was a firm believer in the need to address the problems that exist in society and the problems between and between them. Faulkner’s prose is ornate and intricate. His sentences are long and complex, and many nouns and adjectives are used.

Hemingway's style is the complete opposite. His sentences are short and sharp, and adjectives are rarely used. The effect is mainly very large force and pressure. By emphasizing his literary ideas in his writing, he easily explains his literature and directs it to his readers.

Many similarities can be found between realism and naturalism in the late nineteenth century and modernist literature after the First World War. First and foremost, modernists, like realists and naturalists, attacked the problems of society through symbols to reflect their conclusions about the most important foundations of American life. Modernists like Ernest Hemingway looked at American society and compared it to other cultures of the world.

This style was widely used by realists such as Henry James. Modernism used the naturalistic method of scientific study of the individual and society. Stylistically modernists, with the exception of Hemingway, created in a very formal, defined form. Both modernists and realists have attacked the moral problems in society. The only difference was that these problems were different from each other. While realists tried to “give a complete picture of modern life ...” (p. 502), modernists wanted to “express the whole picture of modern life”. (Elliott 598 bet).

- These authors of the realistic and modernist eras had the same goals in mind, so they naturally wrote using the same ideas, styles, and principles. Realists have focused on various literary aspects to elaborate on how these changes affected American culture. They tried to convey the good and bad aspects of life by describing in detail the heroes formed by society. Modernists, mastering this technique, described people who were alienated and marginalized from society as a result of the effects of the First World War:
- Both of them do not pay attention to the development of the plot, trying to describe in detail the problems faced by their heroes from the outside and inside.
- In terms of subject matter, both author groups have tried to convey the pros and cons of changing American society.
- Both argued for change and both advocated the unification of society, but at the same time both were more creative about corruption in America.
- The only thing that separates the two movements is the communities around them. Although the two societies were rapidly undergoing major changes, they were completely different.
- The two literatures had to be distinguished not by their content and character, which in most cases were the same, but by the different circumstances which existed around the literature.
- Although they both want to accurately describe life, they were written in two completely different periods of American history. In one, American culture was expanding and adapting. In the second, life was being crushed on a large scale by the proponents of the war against humanity.

It is well known that culture influences literature. Although these two literary currents may have been separated for only twenty years, during these twenty years the focus has shifted from the internal realities of American society to the realities of how American society has changed as a result of the conflict between other cultures. This idea of different cultures creating different literatures serves as a basis for differentiating literary currents.

CONCLUSIONS

Modernism after the First World War was influenced by the realist / naturalist movement of the late nineteenth century. The literary goals, techniques, and principles of modernists and realists / naturalists were the same. Both faced individual and societal challenges and aimed to create an objective, clear picture of society. To do this, they often resorted to the same technique. They created an American portrait that combined scientific considerations, extraordinary views, and physical and psychological examinations that could identify, overcome, and treat the problems of American society. The realists of the late nineteenth century and the modernists of the 1920s wrote similarly, but differed in that they existed in a different kind of reality.

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