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Research Article

English

LITERARY THEORIES AND CRITICISM

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ABSTRACT

"Literary Theory" is the body of ideas and methods we use in the practical reading of literature. By literary theory of we refer not to the meaning of a work of literature but to the theories that reveal "What Literature can Mean". Literary Theory is an attempt to understand the various ways that different people read texts. Yes, We all know that not everyone "interprets" a book, poem, or even a songs the same way. "Theory gives readers a chance to view a text with so called different set of lenses". It is the systematic study of the nature of "Literary literature. However, literary scholarship since the 19th century often includes in addition to over even instead of literary theory in the strict sense consideration of intellectual history, normal philosophy, social prophecy and other interdisciplinary themes which are of relevance to the way humans interpret meaning.

Keywords: Literary Theory, Criticism, humanities

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INTRODUCTION

Literary Criticism (or literary theory) is the study, evaluation and interpretation of literature, Modern literary criticism is often influenced by literary theory, which is the philosophical discussion of literatures goals and methods. Literary theory is a description of the underlying principles one might say the tools by which we attempt to understand literature. All literary interpretation draws on a basis in theory but can serve as a justification for very different kinds of critical activity. Literary criticism is concerned with the most recent, the "present" state of literature. It also interprets the literature of the past from the standpoint of modern social and artistic aims. Literary criticism in the strict sense is not universally accepted as being part of the scholarly discipline of literary theory and criticism.

The most important part of literary theory and criticism is poetics. It may related to each of the major areas of literary theory and criticism. In literary theory it provides knowledge of the structure of any literary work.

In humanities in modern academic, the later style of scholarship is an outgrowth of critical theory and is often called simply " Theory". As a consequence the word theory has become an umbrella term for a variety of scholarly approaches are informed by various strands of continental philosophy and sociology literary theory is the theory (or the philosophy) of the interpretation of literature and literary criticism.

A very basic way of thinking about literary theory is that these ideas act as different lenses critics use to write and talk about art , literature and even culture. These different lenses allow critics to consider works of art based on certain assumptions come from the theories and decide what particular aspects of a works are important.

Types of theories
Feminist theory
Gender/Queer theory,
Marxist theory
Post colonialtheory
Post analytic theory

FEMINIST THEORY

New language is needed to express feminist view points. Renders patriarchal hierarchies and ideologies important in literature.

Began as an opposition to made critical theory:-

- ❖ Tended to follow patriarchal formula
- ❖ In "A Room of One's Own" Virginia wool posited a hypothetical sister to Shakespeare, who given the same conditions, would write works as good as Shakespeare,
- ❖ More recent feminist critics have posited female voice that fundamentally differs from the male voice and which does not seek the validation of male theory.

GENDER /QUEER THEORY

- Opens discourse surrounding cultural binaries and binary oppositional language. Father/ Mother / Man/ Woman, Masculine feminine.
- Differs from feminist theory that looks upon woman as " Other".
- Cultural ideology at the base of gender and sexuality is ever changing.

- Ideas regarding gender and sexuality should not remain static.

MARXIST THEORY

- Tend to focus on the representation of class conflict as well as the reinforcement of class distinctions.
- Use traditional techniques of subordinate aesthetic concerns to the final social ' and political meanings of literature.
- Theories arising from the Marxist Paradigm have sought new ways of understanding the relationship between economic and cultural production as well as literature.
- Marxist analyses of society and history have had a profound effect on literary ,theory and practical criticism.
- Most notably in the development of " New Historicism ⁶⁴ and "Cultural Materialism."

POST COLONIAL THEORY

- BY making these truth right and natural, it makes the Orient into the Other".
- It also justifies the colonization of the people.
- It colonized may not have been physically colonized , but colonized by being " Studied"
- The idea that a people without power, can actually be speaking for the system of ideologies put in which may or may not be their own beliefs.
- Marginalized "Others" do not have access to imperial colonialists experience and culture.

POST ANALYTIC THEORY

- One can understand the text by psychoanalyzing motives, characters, symbols, actions or any number of literary devices in order to discover meaning.
- Prompted by Freud's work focusing on the ID, Ego, Superego, Desire, theunconscious and Defences.

The Literary criticism is the evaluation analysis, description of interpretation of literary works. It is usually in the form of a critical essay but in depth book reviews can sometimes be considered literary criticism may examine a particular literary work or many look at an author's writings as a whole.

The literary criticisms concept, formed on the basis of critical analysis and primarily the value and merit of literary works for the presence of quality of certain parameters of literary characteristics

Some Examples of Literary Criticism

- ❖ Literary Criticism for
- ❖ Literary Criticism on James Joyce's Novel Dubliners.
- ❖ Literary Criticism on Goethite Wasp Factory.
- ❖ Literary Criticism on the Metamorphosis.

Types of Literary Criticism

- ❖ Traditional Criticism
- ❖ New Criticism
- ❖ Sociological Criticism
- ❖ Rhetorical Criticism
- ❖ Stylistic Criticism
- ❖ Metaphorical Criticism
- ❖ Structuralist Criticism
- ❖ Marxist Criticism
- ❖ Historical Criticism
- ❖ Mythological
- ❖ (Archetypal) Criticism
- ❖ Moralistic Criticism
- ❖ Feminist Criticism
- ❖ Psychological and Psychoanalytical Criticism
- ❖ Phenomenological Criticism etc.

Criticism is very interesting and opens the door to a wider appreciation of poetry particularly that

in other language. Literary criticism in short the approaches of this section should give poets some of the tools needed to assess their work and to learn from the successful creations of others.

One critic will emphasize close reading, another symbols, another morality another psychology, another sociology and till another the mythical. New critics think that literary is the most important of human activities. They speak of text as autonomous for appreciation. No Vulgar biography is allowed there.

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