

PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt / Egyptology

MODERNISM AND IDENTITY CRISIS: A CRITICAL STUDY OF FITZGERALD FICTION

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Ayra Tariq, Maria Niaz, Arslan Abbas, Bushra Naseer, Samina Kanwal. Modernism And Identity Crisis: A Critical Study Of Fitzgerald Fiction-- Palarch's Journal Of Archaeology Of Egypt/Egyptology 19(3), 180-188. ISSN 1567-214x

Key Words: Absurdity, Fiction, Identity Crisis, Classism, Social Practices.

ABSTRACT

The present research intends to investigate the novel "The Great Gatsby" by American Modernist Fitzgerald, specifically, with the viewpoint of identity crisis in modern literature. Modernism as a literary movement is conceded very contradictory movement, such as, in this era the critics raise question about everything and neglect the things that have not any material gain. Henceforth, some critics might classify "The Great Gatsby" as a love story, yet, there could be a doubt that, whether Gatsby was in love or not. Hence, the man obsessed with wealth and social standing, Gatsby had little space in his mind, let alone his heart, for anything else. The paper focuses on issues of wealth and social standing as presented in The Great Gatsby. Identity crisis faced Gatsby is pointed out. The question of love between Daisy and Gatsby is discussed. Even though Gatsby had struggle with false identity, he was goal-oriented and hope-oriented, an idealist. Moreover, the study adopts the qualitative method to analyze the text of "The Great Gatsby" and descriptive approach for analysis. Yet, the comments of the study is supported by the theory of identity by Bhabha (1994) and some suitable citations of contemporary scholars as well.

INTRODUCTION

Identity is conceded as the impermanent and uncertain concept of the self. Marcia claims, it might be four identity stages, that develop, who are us as the individuals. Although, the above four stages of identity are moratorium,

diffusion, foreclosure, and achievement. The identity could be found between self and outside and from comfort zone of someone. Henceforth, the identity consists of family, personal and social identity of someone. Further, personal identity may be moral believes of someone as well as self-values. Hence, Social identity as a theory specifies the circumstances that individuals think about themselves as the group members. Further, self-concept of someone may be their understanding that who are they as well as what makes to them unique from the other. Hence, it could include social, psychological, physical, competent and inner self. However, self-understanding of someone is knowing motivates of her or his actions (Durlauf & Seshadri, 2018).

The modernism is a Literary movement of twentieth century, right after the death of Queen Victoria, that presents the aspects which are new and different from all other dimensions of the literature, such as it concerns to change in situation of the culture, into account. Henceforth, the exact time period of this movement has been much debated and pondered by the critics of that time and still it is in debate. Brooker (1972) investigated, the critics extended this period from 1890 to 1960, henceforth, others divided this time period into pre-war and post-war, as, Brooker, claims that, "priority to post-war years or priority to post-war years", (1972, p.4). Henceforth, Cuddon (1977) described that some critics suggested, the movement was started from 1880 and ended in 1950 after the second world war. Yet, this debate about the start of this movement is insignificant, yet, the literary ideology of this movement, that would also be discussed in the present research is more reliable as most of the critics agreed on it. Such as, according to Levenson (2002) the modernism is a "creative violence" (p.2), as, it deviates to the rules of the literary, political, social and religious traditions as well as turns to holistic concepts of literature into the new mental or internal trends. In addition, a significant point of view is made here, such as, "modernist" could be distinguished by the "modern". For instance, modern could denote to everything which is produced by contemporary period but on the other hand modernists only refer to the specific elements that flout from conventional and historical literary forms. Furthermore, modern writers implied historical period, emphatically, hence, the modernist lay stress upon dominant approaches that have been deemed as to be touchstone to put pen to paper.

Henceforth, modernism could be defined as, a comprehensive technique that is applied to the tendencies of international as well as a movement in all arts from latter 19th century. Hence, he made distinction b/w new modernism and pre-modernism. Henceforth, Pre-modernism presents the early manifestation of this movements that ended with the first world war, 1914- 20, yet, new modernism implies to the movement after the world war and describes the problems of the people of 1920, for instance, the novel *The Great Gatsby* depicts the problem of identity if the people of that time period. Meanwhile, the literature of modernism breaks the established traditions, conventions and rules, hence, it refers the fresh ways to look the position of man in universe.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Why the characters in this novel try to succeed in fulfilling their dreams and desires through their experience in life?

3. How do the characters in the novel construct their identity?

LITERATURE REVIEW

The issues of identity are the common factors that are depicted by the modern writers, especially, the American writers. For instance, Fitzgerald's depicts the crisis of identity into his all works. Henceforth, James (2014) depicts that, the modern period is conceded as most contradictory period of the English literature, such as it end-up with the two major wars WWI and WWII. Hence, these wars destroyed the everything and people fell into crisis of life and they do not know about their identity as well. Hence, they people start to build the individual identity and ignore the national identity that creates the problems for the people, especially, the people who belongs to the lower class. Trace (2010) claims that hybridity is become a weapon that the people use to bring closer to the people of different cultures. Yet, the people having hybrid identity keep the Substitute position in the national status. Hence, this hybrid identity also create problem for them, such as, they have to face discrimination due to the racial expression of the people who have original identity. The story "My Son the Fanatic", is a great example of it. Such as, Parvez and his family also face the identity crisis due to their hybrid crisis due to their hybrid identity. The post-colonial literature is a witness of the struggle of the people due to the hybrid identity, such as, the people, who are colonized by the British rules, are migrated England and settle there as well. Hence, the immigrants face the difficulties into their survival in Europe, yet, they adopts rules and customs of the English society and try to escape from crisis of identity. However, they mix-up their cultural values with the British Society and create new hybrid identity that also become a reason of difficult survival into the land of others. According to (2001), hybridity might be imposed by economic, social and political institutions, yet, it effects upon the life of individuals. The story of Qureshi (1994) depicts that the immigrants face the problems due to their hybrid Social, biological and economical hybrid identities (Gholipour & Sanahmadi, 2013).

The modern literature describes the identity crisis in brief detail, such as, the modern writer, has the theme of crisis of identity into their work, for instance, D.H Lawrence, in his work, has, the theme of absurdity and chaos, as, he has not the idea to define the identity of the people in clear manners. Moreover, his poem, "Snack" "Monologue of Mother" have the theme of identity crisis, as he depicts the theme of the War and struggle of the human beings in that time society. Hence, most of the literature of modern age, is about the identity crisis due to the effects of the world war II. Hence, the American literature at that time have the theme of identity crisis as well. Hence, the modern literature depicts the theme of pastiche that means combine or paste together. Hence, many types of genre combine together and make the modern literature. Another important theme of modern literature is temporal distortion. Hence, fragmentation is the main characteristic of it. Yet, distortion of plot time are the influential aspects in the temporal distortion. Moreover, hyperreality as well as the techno culture also the important themes of modern authors. Jameson claimed that, the modernism is a "cultural logic of capitalism" Hence forth, in this period, the society moves more than the capitalism through the formation technology. Identity is itself a problematic, such as, why someone need to define of individual, there could be other, that differentiate b/w the self and other. Hence,

the post-colonial and modern age. Hence, the present research focus on the identity issues, specially, is the work of American writer. Literary modernism is a twentieth-century movement which takes new aspects of literature, as concerned with the changing situation of the society, into account. The exact period in which the movement appeared is much debated by critics. Brooker argues that some critics extend the period from 1880 to 1950, while some others divide the period and “give priority to the prewar years,” or “post-war years”. (1972, p.4) some other critics believe that the movement started in 1890 and finished in 1945 when the second world war was over. The debate over the beginning or end of modernism is not as significant as its literary ideology which is to be discussed in this research (Durlauf & Seshadri, 2018).

Modernism as a “creative violence” (Gholipour & Sanahmadi, 2013) deviates from the literary tradition and turns the holistic and taken-for-granted literary concepts into new internal and mental trends. The significant point to be made here is that “modernist” must be distinguished from “modern”. Modern can denote anything done or produced at the contemporary period while modernist refers to specific experimental elements which flout the conventional literary forms. In modern writings, the historical period is emphatically implied, whereas modernist writings lay stress on the dominant techniques and approaches which are deemed to be the touchstones for putting pen to paper. Cuddon has given the following definition of modernism: A very comprehensive term applied to international tendencies and movements in all the creative arts since the latter end of the 19th c. Professor Kermode has made a distinction between Palaeo-modernism and Neo-modernism. Paleomodernism refers to early manifestations of new movements concluding, perhaps, c. 1914-20, while neo-modernism refers to movements (like surrealism [q.v]) since that time. As far as literature is concerned modernism reveals a breaking away from established rules, traditions and conventions, fresh ways of looking at man’s position and function in the universe and many (in some cases remarkable) experiments in form and style. (1977, p. 399). The above-mentioned citation can be clarifying and revealing as to the hallmarks of the movement. The modernist movement is “a breaking away from established rules” of the previous eras and considers “man’s position” and “function” from a viewpoint which is quite bizarre to the eyes of traditionalists. Modernism as “the literature of technology” displays “introversion, technical display, internal self-scepticism” (Bradbury and McFarlane, 1991, pp. 2627) to reflect “experiments in form and style” as man’s roles and intellectuality change tremendously because of metropolitans and technological developments. Another issue which instigated the modernist movement was the “nineteenth-century assumptions” which had established themselves as “dead conventions” (Faulkner, 1977, p. 1).

Realism and naturalism were some of the touchstones by which the validity of literature was measured. But the modernists who regarded literature as a self-contained phenomenon reflecting the autonomy of the writer disagreed over the well-established rules of the Victorian period and using experimental devices created new literary masterpieces based upon their own reflections and intellectualism (Murtaugh, 2013) (Žalac, 2017). They believed that “modernization has changed the very nature of reality” and literature “has to change its very nature” (Bunce, 2015) to dig up the unexcavated monuments of

mind. Ousby in his book called *Literature in English* came up with the following statement on modernism: The term for an international tendency in the arts brought about by a creative renaissance during the last decade of the 19th century and lasting into the post-war years. Strictly speaking, modernism cannot be reliably characterized by a uniform style or even described as a “movement”, since it embraced a wide range of artistic movements, including symbolism, impressionism, post-impressionism, Futurism, constructivism, Imagism, Vortices, Expressionism, dada” and surrealism, (Vogel, 2015).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The researcher adopts the following way to format the present study.

The researcher analyzes the data qualitatively and uses analytical approach too. The research collects the data from the novel “*The Great Gatsby*” by Fitzgerald, according to questions of present study. Henceforth, the data is not only collected from the abovementioned novel, yet it also from the Bhabha’s theory Identity and Hybridity as well as supported the arguments with suitable citations of the contemporary critics as well.

DATA ANALYSIS

Hence, his attitude, to showing of his new stasis, as a rich man, is described by the narrator, as, “He takes out... shirts & Start throwing these Shirts one by one... shirts with sheer linen, fine flannel and thick silk that lost its folds... covered a table with many-colored disarray. We admire he bring the soft heap... shirts with scrolls and strips and plaids and apple-green and faint orange and Indian Blue”, (P.89). Hence, the above-mentioned text describes the nature of Gatsby as he wants to show his assets before his beloved Daisy, as, it shows the materialistic thoughts of the Gatsby and he represents the whole American society as well. Yet, he could not find his desired identity. Furthermore, another character of this novel also keeps the ideology of material gains, such as, Tom Buchanan also believes in the physical and martial gain. Such as, he alone not believes in spiritual accomplishments yet, he believes in physical one only. For instance, Nick, being a narrator of this novel, criticizes on Tom, as, he says, “In addition to physical accomplishments Tom has ... powerful ends which played football”, (P.11). Hence, Fitzgerald, ironically, depicts the words body Just for showing the physical approach of Tom as, “Cruel body” and Powerful body”. Hence, Tom never speaks in and about the manners and attitude, yet, he speaks always about his physical appearance. For instance, Fitzgerald argues that, “he was the thirty years straw hard man”. Hence, here the writer wants to present the reasons of identity crisis, such as, how it is possible for the people to build a combine national identity, when they could not live equal in the materialistic society. Such as, they people of America referred from their physical appearance, such as, in the story of the present novel, the character of wolf shine are called from his big nose, people around his never seen his character but looked his physical appearance. Hence, all the above-mentioned text shows the materialistic thoughts of the American society especially, at the time of modern era. The other important element of that materialist approach of the people is that they are belonged to that they are belonged to the different classes a race, in fact, in America white supremacy is concede red as a main reason of identity crisis as well.

The study attempts to analyze the issues of identity with the perspective of modern writer FS Fitzgerald's Writings. Moreover, Fitzgerald's all works have the theme of identity crisis, yet, his novel "The Great Gatsby" is very prominent among his work. For instance, this novel was published in 1925, very after the end of world war. In addition, that time period is conceded very crucial in the history of America, as, they were building and formatting the new identity for America nation. Hence, the wants to build a nation that would be called a one American nation. Yet, it could be not possible due to the many reasons, such as, the different parts of America which have different values on the basis of different physical appearance and ideologies. Another important aspect is a different phase of American history, as, the people come in America from different places of world. Hence, the American dream is that, we form an American national identity which would be an identity of every American, where every American would enjoy the equal right. But, due to the previously discussed factors, this dream become difficult to be true. Hence, the American identity divided into three categories (National, regional and individual) rather than a single national identity. Furthermore, the researcher, in the chapters, aims to highlight the identity and crisis of identity through the textual analysis of the novel "The Great Gatsby" by Fitzgerald. This novel has four setting in the USA which keep different identities and also has two different classes, 'rich and poor. So, the people of their four places face the issue of identity crisis due to the capitalistic approach of the people of their places. Before disusing about the social identity in the novel of Gals by, we try to understand firsts to the meaning of identify. Such as Erikson (1956) a grant American writer and Psychologist describes the arsis of identity in detail. The arsis could be solved through the ego identity, (ego identity is a concept that was given by the segment frond in his theory of Psycho analysis and Erikson expend his idea later in his theory of Psycho analysis). Ego identity is a identity which as continuity of conflict in past and future. For instance, the very character of Gat by wants to make write his Future due to the past as he was neglected in past by Dairy due to his poor identity. Hence, issues of identity are depicted by the writer, which is discussed in detail through the textual analysis. In palliation, of the study as it describes the relationship b/w individual and personal identity that leads the society to reformation of identity. Moreover, Savona (1979) has investigated that, "Psychoanalytical theory of Erikson.....belief that communal culture S Personal growth are inseparable.....Seemed to offer the appropriate meanings for examine the four completed novel of scot Fitzgerald that present the scenario of identity crisis in America" (P.176). Hence, in the following novel writer presents very interesting insights to the question of identity. Such as in the Start of the novel. The narrator claims that "The conduct could be Founded... hard rock or on the Wet marshes, (P.7) conduct could be the practical side of the identity, for example, The narrator Father angus that, "as a sign of a road way signifies a presence of the nearby town" (P.70). The above diseased text clears that the conduct. Could charge the identity of someone, such as the soled identity could be charged into the lose identity. The words "The rock" and "Wet mashes" are very opposite as the loss of the Sochi identity of someone as well. An Bradstreet (2019) has described that the word rock refers to the solid identity, such a it is upon this rock Jesus... She builds her faith" (P.11). Another

main Feature of the modernity is that it attacks on the religious belief of someone as were as the myths of their religious belief.

Hence, the word rock is typically used by the writer as an identity of saints and religious novel personalities that has solid identities, for instance, Fitzgerald claims that "rock of the world... securely founded on the wings of fairy" (P.11). Hence, the present study analyzes the issue of identity crisis with the modern perspective. The modern era is a period of uncertainty that creates the Chadians of identity for the people. The writings of that time also presents the themes of identity crisis of the people. Hence if we compare the rock with identity and wings of a position of the identity of someone hence it shows that the identity of someone never remains stable as the wings never remain still. Hence the novel always concedes as a criticism against the American national identity and American dream. According to American based on the ideas of self- aeration, success endless progress and achievement. Yet, the ideals could not come true due to the issue, of race, pedigree and class. Hence it could also be seen in the character of Gatsby. For instance, he made money, Yet, he could be able to achieve the equal status like dairy has in the society. So that shows that, the identity of the society does not basis only on material gain, Yet, there is identity behind the material gain which also could be effected by the norms like race and ethnicity. Campbell (n.d) describes that " The novel itself concerned with the problems of identity crisis and temptation of believes in the dream that could be manifested with yearning of Fats by for dairy, The woman when he almost married in past, She encompasses the desires to " lost origins"once again with a mother, for going back to the begging Yet, it..... proves beyond his reach.... As all dreams all" (P.23) moreover, the very novel is written in the sceneries of Problematic identity, especially the identity of modern man in 1920s. The novel " The Great Gatsby" asks question about the entity of American Social identity hence he claims as the many writers thing the novel is about the identity but the question is that the novel ready about the American identity or Americanism, For instance, " American", " identity" , " America" or "raced identity of America" ,(P.153) hence it still remains an matter of debate. Henceforth, we through the reading of their novel have sympathy for Gatsby by and think his character as a solid and seniors character, the writer shows his character as a positive character, Yet, in the and the truth of his need identity is revolt that unction to the identity of this character. Hence, he hides his identity of past just for searching his hidden future. That shows that the people of modern time actually fail to find their read identity and wondered to the false identity. The researcher, calamines that the novel of modern writer is a novel about the assert identity of Americans especially offer the world war. Such as the conflict of Gatsby by that what he is and what he wants to be. Yet, offer archiving his desires the identity of very character Still in version. So, the identity arises is a main theme of this novel as self.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we may say that Americans found themselves scrambling to find new values for their society. This shift in their points of view had a detrimental impact not only on their collective experience but also on their psychological being as a whole. It completely overpowered them. The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald is a novel that was written in the early twentieth century and is

considered by many to be the definitive portrait of American culture in the twentieth century. The lives of average Americans were complicated as a direct result of their actions. The novel is virtually always remembered as being extremely connected to modernity in the United States. As a result, the issue of identity crisis is present in this work, and it is discussed in terms of race, class, gender, religion, ethnicity, and individualism, among other categories. For example, every character in the novel is perplexed by the plot, and no one can reach a consensus or be content with where he stands in the larger society. For example, the main character of the book is going through an identity crisis. Gatsby is going to change his old identity because he was turned down by Daisy, a rich lady, in the past because of his lesser rank in society. As a result, he adheres to the philosophy that hard labor is the best way to amass wealth and secure his place in Daisy's affections. So that he can obtain her, he decides to change his identity; however, he is unable to successfully pull this off, and his old identity continues to haunt him. He is nevertheless considered to be of a lower social status. As a result, distinctions in social class are not the only cause of identity crises in society; rather, the approach that capitalism and materialism take in American society also contribute to the emergence of problems associated with people's sense of who they are as members of that society. For example, Gatsby desires Daisy, not because of the love he has for her, but because he feels she would be an essential addition to his mansion. On the other hand, Tom is one of those people who believes in materialistic things, such as the idea that a man who is powerful, wealthy, and physically fit is superior to a spiritual man. As a consequence of this, each of the characters in this book has an identity that is distinct from the others. Because of racial expression, economic inequalities, capitalism, and gender discrimination in the society, the objective of the American dream, which was to provide an equal identity for every citizen of the United States, has been rendered impossible. As a result, the American dream has failed. The novel "The Great Gatsby" is, consequently, an excellent illustration of identity crises in the post-war society of the United States of America.

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