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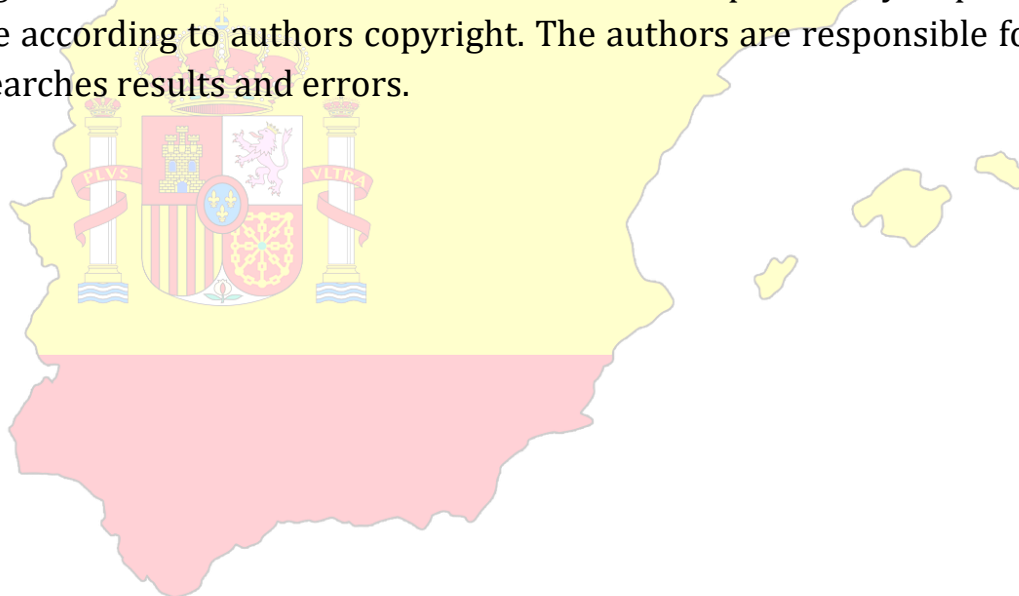


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POSTMODERNIST HISTORICAL NOVEL: A DECONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO HISTORY

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Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada postmodernistik tarixiy romanchilikning nazariy asoslari va uning tarixga nisbatan dekonstruktiv yondashuvi tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda postmodern adabiyotda tarixiy haqiqatning nisbiyligi, matnlararo aloqadorlik va muallif pozitsiyasining subyektivligi kabi xususiyatlar yoritiladi. Shuningdek, tarixiy voqealarning qayta talqin qilinishi, rasmiy tarix diskursining shubha ostiga olinishi va alternativ tarixiy narrativlarning shakllanishi ko'rib chiqiladi. Natijalar postmodernistik tarixiy roman tarixni qayta anglash va uni ko'p qatlamli talqin qilishda muhim adabiy vosita ekanini ko'rsatadi.

Kalit so'zlar. Postmodernizm, tarixiy roman, dekonstruksiya, tarixiy haqiqat, intertekstuality, subyektivlik, alternativ tarix, narrativ, tarixiy diskurs, adabiy talqin.

Abstract. This article analyzes the theoretical foundations of postmodern historical fiction and its deconstructive approach to history. The study highlights such features of postmodern literature as the relativity of historical truth, intertextuality, and the subjectivity of the author's position. It also examines the reinterpretation of historical events, the questioning of the official historical discourse, and the formation of alternative historical narratives. The results show that the postmodern historical novel is an important literary tool for reinterpreting history and interpreting it in a multi-layered way.

Keywords. Postmodernism, historical novel, deconstruction, historical truth, intertextuality, subjectivity, alternative history, narrative, historical discourse, literary interpretation.

Аннотация. В данной статье анализируются теоретические основы постмодернистской исторической прозы и её деконструктивный подход к истории. В исследовании освещаются такие особенности постмодернистской литературы, как относительность исторической истины, интертекстуальность и субъективность позиции автора. Также рассматривается переосмысление исторических событий, оспаривание официального исторического дискурса и формирование альтернативных исторических нарративов. Результаты показывают, что постмодернистский исторический роман является важным литературным инструментом для переосмысления истории и её многослойной интерпретации.

Ключевые слова: постмодернизм, исторический роман, деконструкция, историческая истина, интертекстуальность, субъективность, альтернативная история, нарратив, исторический дискурс, литературная интерпретация.

Postmodernist historical fiction has emerged as one of the most intellectually complex and conceptually rich literary phenomena of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Unlike traditional historical novels, which tend to reconstruct the past in a coherent and linear narrative grounded in the assumption of historical objectivity, postmodern historical narratives problematize the very notion of historical truth. They question the reliability of historical records, challenge the authority of grand narratives, and foreground the constructed nature of both history and fiction. In this context, the historical novel becomes not merely a medium for representing the past, but a site of critical inquiry where the boundaries between fact and fiction are deliberately blurred.

The rise of postmodernist historical fiction is closely linked to broader intellectual developments in philosophy, historiography, and literary theory. Thinkers such as Michel Foucault and Jacques Derrida have significantly influenced the way history is conceptualized, emphasizing discourse, power relations, and the instability of meaning. From this perspective, history is no longer understood as a fixed and objective record of past events, but rather as a narrative constructed through language, shaped by ideological forces and interpretative frameworks. Consequently, postmodern historical novels adopt a deconstructive approach, exposing the limitations and biases inherent in traditional historiography[1].

Scholarly discourse on postmodernist historical fiction highlights several key theoretical dimensions. Linda Hutcheon's concept of "historiographic metafiction" is particularly central in this regard. Hutcheon argues that postmodern historical novels simultaneously engage with and question historical representation by combining self-reflexive narrative techniques with historical subject matter. Such texts do not attempt to offer definitive interpretations of the past; instead, they draw attention to the processes of narration and representation, thereby inviting readers to critically evaluate the nature of historical knowledge. Similarly, Hayden White's work on the narrative structure of historiography underscores the idea that historical writing is inherently literary, shaped by rhetorical and stylistic choices rather than purely empirical evidence[2].

In addition to these theoretical perspectives, numerous literary works exemplify the characteristics of postmodern historical fiction. Authors such as Thomas Pynchon, John Fowles, and Salman Rushdie have produced texts that challenge conventional historical narratives through fragmentation, parody, intertextuality, and narrative multiplicity. These works often incorporate fictionalized versions of historical figures, alternative timelines, and contradictory perspectives, thereby undermining the notion of a single, authoritative historical truth.

The findings of this study indicate that postmodernist historical fiction operates through a set of distinctive narrative strategies that collectively contribute to its deconstructive engagement with history. One of the most prominent features is the use of intertextuality, whereby texts reference, reinterpret, and transform

earlier literary and historical works. This creates a network of meanings that destabilizes the idea of originality and highlights the interdependence of all narratives. Another key feature is metafiction, which draws attention to the artificiality of the narrative and the role of the author in shaping the story. By foregrounding the act of writing itself, metafictional techniques encourage readers to question the authenticity of historical representation[3].

Furthermore, postmodern historical novels frequently employ temporal dislocation and narrative fragmentation. Instead of presenting events in a linear chronological order, they often disrupt temporal continuity, juxtaposing different time periods and perspectives. This fragmentation reflects the complexity and multiplicity of historical experience, suggesting that the past cannot be fully captured within a single, unified narrative. In this sense, postmodern fiction mirrors the epistemological uncertainty that characterizes contemporary understandings of history.

Another significant aspect of postmodernist historical fiction is its focus on marginalized voices and alternative histories. Traditional historiography has often privileged dominant narratives, overlooking the experiences of minority groups, women, and other marginalized communities. Postmodern narratives seek to redress this imbalance by incorporating diverse perspectives and challenging established historical hierarchies. Through this process, they not only expand the scope of historical representation but also critique the power structures that have shaped historical discourse[4].

The discussion of these findings reveals that postmodernist historical fiction serves both an aesthetic and a critical function. On the one hand, it introduces innovative narrative techniques that enrich the literary form and expand the possibilities of storytelling. On the other hand, it engages in a sustained critique of historical knowledge, exposing its contingent and constructed nature. This dual function underscores the significance of postmodern historical novels as a bridge between literature and historiography[5].

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge certain limitations and challenges associated with this genre. The emphasis on fragmentation, ambiguity, and relativism may lead to difficulties in interpretation, potentially alienating some readers[6]. Moreover, the rejection of objective historical truth raises questions about the ethical implications of representing the past, particularly in relation to traumatic or contested historical events. These concerns highlight the need for a balanced approach that recognizes both the creative potential and the critical responsibilities of postmodern historical fiction[7].

Conclusion.

The analysis of postmodernist historical fiction demonstrates that this genre represents a significant transformation in the literary interpretation of history. Unlike traditional historical narratives that aim to reconstruct the past as a coherent and objective reality, postmodern historical novels challenge the very foundations of historical knowledge by exposing its constructed and interpretative nature.

Through a deconstructive approach, these works reveal that history is not a fixed set of facts, but rather a narrative shaped by language, ideology, and power relations.

The study confirms that postmodernist historical fiction employs a range of innovative narrative strategies, including metafiction, intertextuality, temporal fragmentation, and narrative multiplicity. These techniques serve to destabilize the authority of historical discourse and encourage readers to question the reliability of historical representations. In doing so, postmodern narratives blur the boundaries between fact and fiction, transforming the historical novel into a critical space where competing interpretations of the past can coexist.

Another important finding is the genre's emphasis on marginalized voices and alternative perspectives. By incorporating diverse viewpoints and revisiting overlooked or suppressed histories, postmodern historical fiction challenges dominant narratives and contributes to a more inclusive understanding of the past. This aspect underscores the ideological and cultural significance of the genre, as it not only reinterprets history but also reshapes collective memory and identity.

At the same time, the study highlights certain limitations associated with postmodern approaches. The rejection of objective truth and the reliance on ambiguity and fragmentation may complicate interpretation and raise ethical concerns regarding the representation of historical events. Nevertheless, these challenges do not diminish the value of the genre; rather, they emphasize its role in fostering critical thinking and interpretative awareness.

Postmodernist historical fiction occupies a crucial position in contemporary literature by redefining the relationship between history and narrative. It functions both as an artistic form and as a critical tool that interrogates historical knowledge, invites multiple interpretations, and reflects the complexity of human experience. As such, it remains a vital and evolving field of literary study.

List of used literature

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