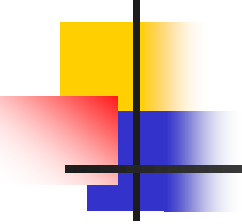


Modernism in literature

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-
- Define the word “modern” in your own words

Definition



Modernism is a literary and cultural international movement which flourished in the first four decades of the 20th century. It reflects a **sense of cultural crisis** which was both **exciting** and **disquieting**, in that it opened up a **whole new vista of human possibilities** at the same time as putting into question any previously accepted means of grounding and evaluating new ideas. Modernism is marked by **experimentation**, particularly **manipulation of form**, and by the realization that knowledge is **not absolute**.



Definition

■ **Modernism**

- a term typically associated with the twentieth-century reaction against realism and romanticism within the arts. More generally, it is often used to refer to a twentieth-century belief in the virtues of science, technology and the planned management of social change.

■ **Modernity**

- refers to a period extending from the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries (in the case of Europe) to the mid to late twentieth century characterized by the growth and strengthening of a specific set of social practices and ways of doing things. It is often associated with capitalism and notions such as progress.



A few dates

- 1909
 - First “Manifesto” of Italian Futurism
- 1910
 - Death of Edward VII
 - Post-impressionist exhibition in London
- 1913
 - Russian Cubo-futurism
 - English Vorticism
- 1916-20
 - Dada
- 1912-17
 - Imagism
 - *Tradition and individual Talent* by TS Eliot
- 1922
 - Ts. Eliot’s *The Waste Land*
 - J. Joyce’s *Ulysses*
 - Death of M.Proust



Modernism as a movement

Modernism as a movement can be recognized not only in literature but also in

- The sciences
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Anthropology
- Painting
- Music
- Sculpture
- Architecture



General Features

Modernism was built on a sense of lost community and civilization and was made up of a series of contradictions , embraced multiple features of modern sensibility

- Revolution and conservatism
- Loss of a sense of tradition
- Increasing dominance of technology



Thematic features

- Intentional distortion of shapes
- Focus on form rather than meaning
- Breakdown of social norms and cultural values
- Dislocation of meaning and sense from its normal context
- Disillusionment
- Rejection of history and the substitution of a mythical past
- Need to reflect the complexity of modern urban life
- Importance of the unconscious mind
- Interest in the primitive and non-western cultures
- Impossibility of an absolute interpretation of reality
- Overwhelming technological changes

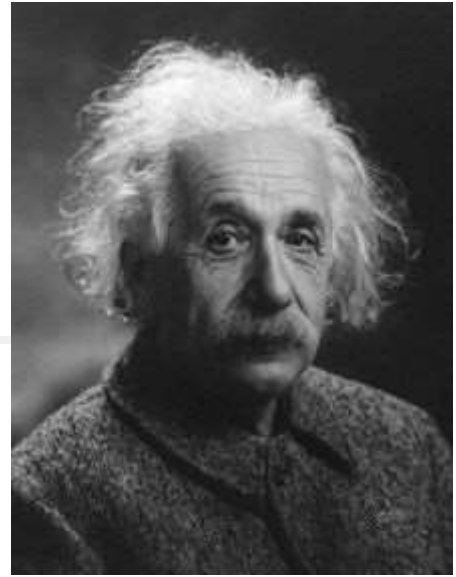


Modernists:

- challenged the idea that God played an active role in the world, which led them to challenge the Victorian assumption that there was meaning and purpose behind world events.
- Instead, Modernists argued that no thing or person was born for a specific use; instead, they found or made their own meaning in the world.
- Challenging the Victorian dichotomy between "civilized" and "savage," Modernists reversed the values associated with each kind of culture.
 - Modernists presented the Victorian "civilized" as greedy and warmongering (instead of being industrialized nations and cash-based economies), as hypocrites (rather than Christians), and as enemies of freedom and self-realization (instead of good patriarchs).



Albert Einstein (1879-1955)



The Theory of General Relativity

- A metric theory of gravitation
- Einstein's equations link the geometry of a four-dimensional space-time with the energy-momentum contained in that space-time
- Phenomena ascribed to the action of the force of gravity in classical mechanics, correspond to inertial motion within a curved geometry of spacetime
- The curvature is caused by the energy-momentum of matter
- Space-time tells matter how to move
- Matter tells space-time how to curve.



Sigmund Freud (1856-1938)



Austrian psychologist and psychotherapist

- Discovered a new method to investigate the mind through analysis of dreams and free associations
- Known for his theories of the unconscious mind and the defense mechanism of repression
- Renowned for his redefinition of sexual desire as the primary motivational energy of human life directed toward a wide variety of objects
- Famous for his therapeutic techniques, including
 - theory of transference in the therapeutic relationship
 - value of dreams as sources of insight into unconscious desires



Formal features of poetry

- Open form
- Use of free verse
- Juxtaposition of ideas rather than consequential exposition
- Intertextuality
- Use of allusions and multiple association of words
- Borrowings from other cultures and languages
- Unconventional use of metaphor
- Importance given to sound to convey “the music of ideas”



Free verse

- Use of poetic line
- Flexibility of line length
- Massive use of alliteration and assonance
- No use of traditional metre
- No regular rhyme scheme
- Use of visual images in distinct lines



Modernist poets

- W.B. Yeats
- Ezra Pound
- T.S. Eliot
- Emily Dickinson



Modernist novelists

- J. Joyce
- V. Woolf
- D.H. Lawrence
- J. Conrad
- E.M. Forster
- E. Hemingway
- W. Faulkner
- K. Mansfield
- F. Scott Fitzgerald



Literary Characteristics:

- "a general term applied retrospectively to the wide range of experimental & avant-garde trends in the literature (and other arts) of the early 20th century...."
- characterized chiefly by a rejection of 19th century traditions and of their consensus between author and reader: realism ... or traditional meter.
- Modernist writers tended to see themselves as an avant-garde, disengaged from bourgeois values, and disturbed their readers by adopting complex and difficult new forms and styles.
- Modernist writing is predominantly cosmopolitan, and often expresses a sense of urban cultural dislocation, along with an awareness of new anthropological and psychological theories. Its favored techniques of juxtaposition and multiple point of view challenge the reader to re-establish a coherence of meaning from fragmentary forms."



Formal features of narrative

- Experimental nature
- Lack of traditional chronological narrative (discontinuous narrative)
- Moving from one level of narrative to another
- A number of different narrators (multiple narrative points of view)
- Self-reflexive about the act of writing and the nature of literature (meta-narrative)
- Use of interior monologue technique
- Use of the stream of consciousness technique
- Focus on a character's consciousness and subconscious



Stream of consciousness

- Aims to provide a textual equivalent to the stream of a fictional character's consciousness
- Creates the impression that the reader is eavesdropping on the flow of conscious experience in the character's mind
- Comes in a variety of stylistic forms
- *Narrated stream of consciousness* often composed of different sentence types including free indirect style
- characterized by associative (and at times dissociative) leaps in syntax and punctuation



Interior monologue

- A particular kind of *stream of consciousness* writing
- Also called quoted stream of consciousness, presents characters' thought streams exclusively in the form of silent inner speech, as a stream of verbalised thoughts
- Represents characters speaking silently to themselves and quotes their inner speech, often without speech marks
- Is presented in the first person and in the present tense and employs deictic words
- also attempts to mimic the unstructured free flow of thought
- can be found in the context of third-person narration and dialogue



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THANK YOU !!!