



الكلية: الآداب

القسم او الفرع: اللغة الانكليزية

المرحلة: الرابع

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اسم المادة باللغة العربية: النقد الادبي

اسم المادة باللغة الإنكليزية: **Literary Criticism**

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اسم المحاضرة الأولى باللغة الإنكليزية: **Introduction to literary Criticism**

Literary Theory and Literary Criticism

Literary theory refers to the study of literature and its various components, such as its structure, language, form, and meaning. It is a framework for understanding how literature works, how it is produced, and how it is interpreted. Literary criticism, on the other hand, refers to the analysis and evaluation of literary works, using various theoretical approaches. It involves examining the various elements of a work of literature, such as its themes, characters, plot, and style, and assessing its strengths and weaknesses.

The relationship between literary theory and literary criticism is a close one. Literary theory provides the tools and concepts that literary critics use to analyze and interpret literary works. Literary criticism, in turn, provides feedback that can help refine and shape literary theory. There are many approaches to literary theory and literary criticism, including structuralism, psychoanalysis, feminism, postcolonialism, and more. Each approach offers a unique perspective on literature and can be used to uncover insights and meanings within literary works.

Why do we need a Literary Theory?

Literary theory is important for several reasons:

1. To understand how literature works: Literary theory helps us understand how literary works are constructed, how they function, and how they convey meaning. It provides us with a framework for analyzing and interpreting literary texts.
2. To appreciate the diversity of literature: Literary theory helps us appreciate the diversity of literature and the many different ways in which it can be read and understood. By examining literature from different perspectives, we gain a deeper appreciation for the complexity and richness of literary works.
3. To explore cultural and historical contexts: Literary theory allows us to explore the cultural and historical contexts in which literary works are produced. It helps us understand how literature reflects and responds to social, political, and cultural issues of the time.
4. To challenge our assumptions and biases: Literary theory challenges our assumptions and biases about literature and encourages us to question our

own interpretations. It helps us recognize the ways in which our personal experiences and cultural backgrounds can shape our understanding of literary works.

5. To contribute to ongoing scholarly discourse: Literary theory contributes to ongoing scholarly discourse about literature, helping to generate new ideas and perspectives that can enrich our understanding of literary works.

Function of Literary Theory

Literary theory refers to the study of literature from a critical perspective. It provides a framework for interpreting and analyzing literature, and it seeks to understand the various ways in which literary texts are constructed and how they communicate meaning.

The functions of literary theory can be grouped into the following categories:

1. Interpretation: Literary theory helps readers to understand and interpret literary works. By providing a set of critical tools and methods, literary theory enables readers to identify the underlying themes, motifs, and symbols in a text, and to analyze the relationships between the various elements of the text.
2. Analysis: Literary theory helps scholars to analyze literary texts and to gain a deeper understanding of the cultural, social, and historical contexts in which they were produced. Through close reading, literary theory can reveal the ideological, political, and aesthetic dimensions of a text.
3. Evaluation: Literary theory enables critics to evaluate literary works according to various criteria such as their artistic merit, their relevance to contemporary issues, and their cultural significance. Literary theory can help critics to identify the strengths and weaknesses of a text and to evaluate its contribution to the literary canon.
4. Pedagogy: Literary theory is also useful for teaching literature. By providing a framework for analysis and interpretation, literary theory can help teachers to guide students in their analysis of literary works.

Overall, the function of literary theory is to deepen our understanding and appreciation of literature, and to provide a framework for critical analysis and interpretation.