MODERNISM IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LITERATURE: LITERATURE REVIEW

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Abstract: *Modernism in English literature represents a significant shift from traditional literary norms, characterized by experimental narrative techniques, fragmented structures, and a departure from conventional realism. Emerging in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, modernist literature was influenced by historical events such as World War I, industrialization, and rapid social changes. This literature review examines key theoretical perspectives on modernism, tracing its evolution and defining characteristics. It explores the works of prominent modernist writers, including T.S. Eliot, James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, and Ezra Pound, analyzing their contributions to the movement.*

Key words: *modernism, English literature, narrative techniques, individualism.*

Introduction: Modernism, a literary movement that emerged in the 19th and early 20th centuries, marked a radical shift in artistic expression, emphasizing experimentation, subjectivity and the rejection of traditional forms. While extensively studied in English literature, modernism in Uzbek literature remains a relatively underexplored area. This literature review examines key studies on modernism in both English and Uzbek literary traditions, comparing their thematic and philosophical underpinnings.

Modernism is often argued to be a movement, period, style or a genre. Peter Childs describes modernism as a movement marked by a 'rejection of realism, experimentation with form, and a concern with perception and subjectivity'.(1) Jean-Francois Lyotard characterizes modernism as a pursuit of grand narratives, meaning overarching explanations of history, society and culture. (2) Sarimsakov expresses a negative view of modernist literature regarding it as a sign of regression rather than progress while Kholbekov and Yoldoshev argue that modernist approaches can yield works of significant artistic value. (3) Uzbek modernist literature developed under different socio-political conditions. While classical Uzbek poetry adhered to strict metrical forms, early 20th-century Uzbek modernists, such as Chulpon and Fitrat, experimented with free verse and prose innovations, reflecting existential concerns and resistance to oppression.(4)

English modernist literature arose in response to rapid industrialization, World War I and disillusionment with Victorian ideals. Writers such as T.S.Eliot, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce and Ezra Pound introduces stream of consciousness narration,

fragmented structures and free verse poetry. Key studies (Bradbury & McFarlane,1976; Levenson, 2011) discuss the movement's engagement with alienation, the breakdown of narrative coherence and innovations in literature. Woolf's "To the Lighthouse" (1927) and Joyce's "Ulysses" serve as a prime examples of these stylistic and thematic departures from 19th- century realism. Modernism in English literature was heavily shaped by key literary critics and theorists who articulated its principles and defended its radical departures from tradition. Among these figures, Ezra Pound and T.S. Eliot played particularly influential roles in defining modernist aesthetics and shaping literary criticism. Ezra Pound, a central figure in early modernism, was a vocal advocate for literary innovation. His famous dictum, "Make it new," encapsulated the modernist drive to break away from past literary conventions and create fresh, experimental forms of artistic expression. (1) Pound believed that literature should be constantly renewed and adapted to reflect contemporary realities. This philosophy influenced multiple modernist movements, particularly Imagism, which Pound championed. T.S. Eliot was both a leading modernist poet and a highly influential literary critic. His essays, particularly *Tradition and the Individual Talent* (1919) and *The Metaphysical Poets* (1921), laid the groundwork for modernist literary theory.(2) Both Pound and Eliot shaped modernism not only through their poetry but also through their critical writings. Pound's *Make it new* philosophy pushed for literary reinvention, while Eliot's emphasis on tradition, impersonality, and intertextuality defined modernist thought. Their ideas continue to influence literary theory and modernist studies today.

Conclusion. Modernism in English and Uzbek literature manifests differently due to socio-political factors, yet both traditions reflect broader global literary transformations. Further research should explore cross-cultural influences and the ways in which Uzbek modernist writers engaged with Western literary currents. Understanding these intersections will enrich the broader discourse on global modernism and literary innovation.

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