

THE ROLE OF NEW CRITICISM IN LITERARY CRITICISM

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Abstract: New criticism is one of many ways to analyze literature. New criticism emerged as the scientific method or approach to grade the literary works accordingly. Prior to the 1920s, literary criticism was dependent on historical slant. To analyze a text, critics were largely dependent on the history of the language used in the text. In 1929, the great critic I.A. Richards published *Practical Criticism*. He experimented by analyzing the text without knowing the name of the author. It was interesting how the students responded when they did not know the name of author. John Crowe Ransom published his book *New Criticism* and later title of his book became a very popular method of analyzing the literature.

Index Terms – Historical, criticism analysis.

I. INTRODUCTION

Objective of article: The research paper aims to reveal out the fact that new criticism is a scientific and technical way of judging the literary work.

Some prominent theories to analyze a literary work: The practice of criticism became a profession in the 20th century but its route run as far back as ancient England, ancient India, ancient Rome and medieval Iraq. Broad schools of theories that have been important are 1. Biographical criticism 2. New criticism formalism, Russian formalism, structuralism, Marxism, feminism, colonialism, new historicism, deconstruction, reader- response criticism and so many.

Differences among schools: the different theorist may interpret the literary work differently. For example: a new critics cannot ask for the words like author, historical because new critics feel that history and biographical information about the author has nothing to do with the text. In an another example a cultural analyst might ask for the cultural atmosphere of the time the text was compiled like Raymond Williams who emphasizes the role of literature in cultural life. A feminist could ask to interpret a literary work on the basis of gender like Luce Irigaray, Judith Butler. Post colonialism may focus on the influences of colonialism in literature, people from this field are Edward Said, Homi Bhabha, a psycho analytic explores the role of consciousness and the unconsciousness that includes author, reader and character in the text, Sigmund Freud, Jacques Lacan, Harold Bloom are the prominent critics of this field.

Emergence of new criticism as the top theory to analyze the text:

Definition of new criticism: new criticism was a movement in literary theory that dominated the literary world in the middle of the 20th century. Close reading in the poetry was a key in analyzing a literary text.

The movement derived its name from the book *The New Criticism* by John Crowe Ransom. I.A. Richards was a stalwart of developing the new criticism. His *practical criticism* and *The Meaning of Meaning* which claimed to be scientific and technical approach were the greatest work of new criticism. T.S. Eliot also developed the new criticism by his “*Tradition and The Individual Talent*” and “*Hamlet and His Problems*” he propounded the notion of “objective correlative”, he consistently felt that poetry must be without the influence of the reader greatly helped in the formation of new criticism a way of analyzing literature scientifically.

Intentional fallacy is the key word in defining new criticism. It is impossible for the reader to know why the book was written by the author until or unless author himself was asked so. And in the same way author’s intention do not matter because text is autonomous in itself. In the cricketing language if a beautiful shot is played by two players where a batsman’s shot played is poor as compared to shot played by a bowler. Here the cricket match viewer can easily say that batsman played a better shot. Even when a bowler played a better shot. This is the fallacy of criticism technically. According to new criticism the batsman should be appreciated even if a bowler was the batsman.

Affective Fallacy in the same way may affect the mind of reader in analyzing a book that is not allowed in new criticism.

Important texts of new criticism: 1. I.A. Richards books, *Practical Criticism* and *Meaning of Meaning*

2. Seven Types of Ambiguity by William Empson
3. Cleanth Brooks book, The Well Wrought Urn
4. Wimsatt and Beardsley's essays The Intentional Fallacy and The Affective Fallacy
5. T.S. Eliots "Traditional and Individual Talent" and "Hamlet and His Problems"

CONCLUSION

SO IT CAN BE ASSERTED EMPHATICALLY THAT THE WAY OF CRITICISM IN THE LITERATURE LIKE THE NEW CRITICISM IS HUNDRED PERCENT ACCURATE, TECHNICAL, SCIENTIFIC APPROACH WHILE ANALYZING THE TEXT. IT IS NOT BIASED AS IT KEEPS EVERYTHING AWAY LIKE BIOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, AUTHORIAL ROLE IN DESCRIBING A TEXT.

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