

In modernism, we have some trends:

1. Free verse.
2. Blank verse .
3. Stream of consciousness.
4. Fragmentation.
5. Dramatic monologue.

• What are the factors which led to the emergence of Modernism?

1. Industrial Revolution : In which we have a movement of factories and machineries. This movement would start to meet technique words and expressions in modern poetry.

After the Industrial Revolution, three classes in the society appeared.

1. High class.
2. Working class.
3. Lower class.

2. Geographical discoveries as the discovery of India and colonies.

Modern Poetry

Each literary school or movement has the characteristics of its literary era.

Actually, the modern poetry can be traced back to the Victorian age and Romanticism because it is a reaction against the excessive Romanticism.

- Our question is now: **What is the period of modern poetry?**

It emerges from the late of the nineteenth century till the twentieth century.

- **What is the difference between " Modern "and " Modernist " ?**

Modern: It means or it refers to anything new.

Modernist : It refers to a literary group of poets who follow Modernism or Modernity.

Note : We are going to deal with modernist poets which means that we are going to study poems related to Modernism or Modernity.

We have to keep in mind that not all contemporary poets are considered modernist. Only those who follow Modernity in its technique, principles, form, structure, style, themes, and ideas are considered modernists.

3. Scientific development : It means that we have new theories like Darwin's *The Origin of Species* .This theory says that man is descended from an ape.

4. Religious factors: appeared after Nietzsche's book "The Death of God". This book has a materialistic view that man is not created by God but by nature. In this book, Nietzsche believes just concrete things which exist in life. He does not believe in supernatural things and God. In other words, he does not believe in abstract things.

This led the idea of suffering of man because God is dead, there is no punishment and there is no right and wrong. Therefore, modernists had poets talked a lot about the suffering of men because God is dead.

Some definitions related to modern poetry :

1. **Allusion:** It is a brief reference to a person, place, or event either in history or in previous literature which the reader is assumed to know. We have T.S. Eliot and Ezra Pound.

2. **Ambiguity:** It is the conscious use of a word or phrase to bring out two or more meanings, all of them are relevant.

3. **Blank Verse:** It is unrhymed iambic pentameter. It was the normal pattern for unrhymed verse in English poetry until the twentieth century when free verse largely superseded (replaced) . These are two main traditions; the dramatic deriving from Shakespeare, and the heroic deriving from Milton.

4. **Dramatic monologue:** It is a poem spoken by one character who is not the poet himself. The monologue usually occurs at a moment of great significance for the speaker, or recalls such unusual or interesting in the speaker's mind.

5. **Free verse :** verse written without any regular metrical pattern and usually without rhyme.

6. **Style :**It is the manner of expression: how a poem says what it says. It is analysed in terms of the poem's diction, genre, meter, stanza form, figure of speech, and so on.

Note: the poem's diction means the choice of words.

7. **Tone:** It is the attitude to the subject matter or one hand and to the audience on the other hand implied in the structure and style of a literary work.

8. **Stream of consciousness:** It is a technique which is used to describe the continuous flow of memories, thoughts, feelings, and perceptions through the walking mind. This technique indicates how much the interior life of the subject was a central concern for them.

Note: In the stream of consciousness, we do not have chronological order of events and subjective interference, and all the ideas come spontaneously.

- ❖ The stream of consciousness led to psychological theories which first appeared by Sigmund Freud in his book " The Interpretation of Dream ".

- ❖ **Do you think that there is a relation between our dreams and our inner life?**
Before Sigmund Freud, this theory was not true, but after many psychological theories by Freud, he divided the conscious of man into:
 1. Conscious.
 2. Subconscious.
 3. Ego.
 4. Superego.

So, there is a relation between our inner life and our dreams because dreams are reflection of our wishes and desires.

- ❖ There are a lot of poems in modern poetry talking about psychological factors or stream of consciousness.

Notice how the spontaneous flow of ideas come to the mind in T.S.Eliot "The Love Song of J Alfred

Prufrock". I grew old.. I grew old.. I shall.

Wear the bottom of my trousers rolled

Shall I part my hair behind. Do I dare to eat a peach?

- ✓ He is talking about his old age in the future, so aging is a very important theme in modern poetry. How man will loose his hair and his teeth, and be unable to eat whatever he likes especially hard things.

T.S.Eliot "The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock".

How is his stream of ideas occurs to himself... How he feels, and how he imagines are the things that will happen in the future, and he puts them on paper as he imagines them.

Now, notice the comment on these lines:

The narrator presents his thoughts in a jumbled fashion on similar to the way in which thoughts pop into our conscious mind out of our subconscious mind. Thoughts about momentous subject such as aging.

What is Modernity?

Modernity is a fashionable fleeting in art. It describes a way of living and experiencing life which has arisen with changes after the industrialisation and urbanization. It distinguishes a world that is modern in that its principle authority in science, its principle economic mode is capitalist and its principle means of product in industrialism.

What is Fragmentation?

We do not have something structural , we just have ideas or fragments here and there. Other readers are supposed when they read a literary work to connect all these fragments together in order to have the idea. It is common in prose and poetry.

We have also a shift in place and time when we talk about stream of consciousness in expand time and space. Sometimes the writer go back to the past, and other times, he/she go to the future, so we do not have any chronological order in poems and novels.

Symbolism: modern writers use a lot of symbols, what does that mean? It means that they use hidden messages. For example, in "Absalom and Achitophel" , the writer uses these two characters to criticize political figures.

When we talk about some modernist, the characteristics which depend on the poem are fragmentation or symbols or images.

Concerning the language of modern poetry, we have a disrupted syntax.

❖ What does the disrupted syntax mean?

It refers to any irregular and unusual use of language and grammar. So, most of the modern poems have this disrupted syntax concerning the style and the language.

Miss Notes:

Modern Poetry:

It appears to break from iambic pentameter and to introduce free verse, symbolism and other forms of writing. Not all contemporary poetry is considered modern in the sense of the modernist literary movement. The modernist poets, T.S.Eliot, tended to favor intellect over emotion, and valued themes of alienation and isolation as reactions to the romanticism of the previous era. For contemporary poetry, common trends include stream of consciousness, free verse and the preference for suggestion or ambiguity of ideas.

Modern poetry often features disrupted syntax which refers to irregular sentence structures. Many poems feature a stream of consciousness presentation in which the narrator presents the thought that come to his mind without regard to sequence or logic.

Stream of -c mirrors the way in which the subconscious mind works and shows the poet's increasing interest in psychology, Example T.S. Eliot's The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock.

"I grow old I grow old..... I shall

Wear the bottoms of my trousers rolled/ shall I port
my hair behind do I dare to eat a peach?

The narrator presents his thought in a jumbled fashion, similar to the way the in which thoughts pop into our conscious mind out of our subconscious mind. Thoughts about momentous subjects such as aging, are combined with fleeting thoughts about whether the narrator should roll his pants or eat a peach

Modern poets convey a sense of alienation from the world. As Eliot Writes in Prufrock

*"I have heard the mermaids singing each to each
I don't think they will sing to me."*

The poet doesn't believe he can experience. The wonders or delights of the world, He is alienated and distanced from experiencing its after the flowery, formal and romantic of Victorian marvels literature, Modernist works leaned towards experimentation. Modern poets

wished to ground poetry such that its language and meaning was more accessible to the average person.

With the end of the 19th c. and the two world wars, the Modernist wished to comment candidly on the degenerating state of the world : This context explains the characteristics of free verse and

untraditional forms, disillusionment and preoccupation with perception, and how to cope with a fragmented reality Wallace Stevens captured the essence of the period in his poem "of Modern poetry":

It has to be living, to learn the speech of the place.

It has to face the men of the time and to meet

The most common characteristic is open form and free verse which is quite different from the fixed form forms and meters of traditional poetry.

fragmentation and juxtaposition and intertextuality (reference to other poems or other writings) and allusion. Example the Waste Land it doesn't subscribe to any traditional structure et ;

Freedom : free to write in any structure they choose.

personal imagery which are inaccessible for the majority of readers though some poets create meaning for their readers, meaning is widely left in the minds of the readers who must bring Self to the poem timeless pieces and Universality which represent the Universal timeless sufferings of life.

people are striving for uniqueness and individuality

Modernism : from late 1880s till about 1950s

Then comes the post modern period.

With the rise of industrialism and scientific development come the existential crisis,

The belief in science as progress gone.

That period is characterised by doubt about scientific development and history.

The loss of human lives and property led to questions regarding the meaning of life. As an escape from the harsh realities that emergency after war, many modernist poets used myths in their poetry and nostalgias it is for a time when it was possible to believe that there is only one truth.

They deckled themes of inherent meaninglessness and the loss of certitudes, The Waste Land, "The Second Coming" one example.

Modernity: 19th c, Fashionable fleeting in art. It describes a way of living and experiencing life which has arisen with changes wrought by industrialisation and urbanisation , It distinguishes a world that is modern in that its principle authority is science, its principle

economic mode is capitalist and its principle means of product is industrialism.

Epiphany : It is associated with moments where a characters consciousness goes beyond the boundaries of reality to grasp an import truth. Modernist epiphanies don't reveal either the divinity of the degradation of the observed object, but the ambiguities of the observing self..

Stream of consciousness : it is a technique which is used to describe the continuous flow of memories thoughts, feelings and perception through the waking mind. This technique indicates how much the interior life of the subject was a central concern for them.

1-Allusion: A brief reference to a person, place or event, either in history or in previous literature, which the reader is assumed to know T.S.Eliot and Ezra Pound.

2- Ambiguity: The conscious use of a word or phrase to bring out two or more meanings, all of them relevant.

3- Blank empty verse: Unrhymed iambic pentameters. It was the normal pattern for unrhymed verse in English poetry until the 20th. c.

when free verse largely superseded it. There are two main traditions;

The dramatic deriving from Shakespeare, and the heroic deriving from Milton.

4- Cacophony : The use of seemingly harsh and mellifluous is sounds often to underline or reinforce the meaning .

5- Dramatic Monologue : A poem spoken by one character who is not The poet himself . The monologue usually occurs at a moment of great significance for the speaker-or recalls such a moment; and the main effect is to illustrate something unusual or interesting in the speaker's mind.

6- Free verse : Verse written without any regular metrical pattern and usually without rhyme.

7-Imagism : T.S. Eliot was influenced by this. It is used to describe a whole poem, of a whole play : A successful image works so concretely and directly upon our consciousness that it brings to mind the whole complex of feelings and emotions.

The End